

DH



DECCAN HERALD

The Power of Good



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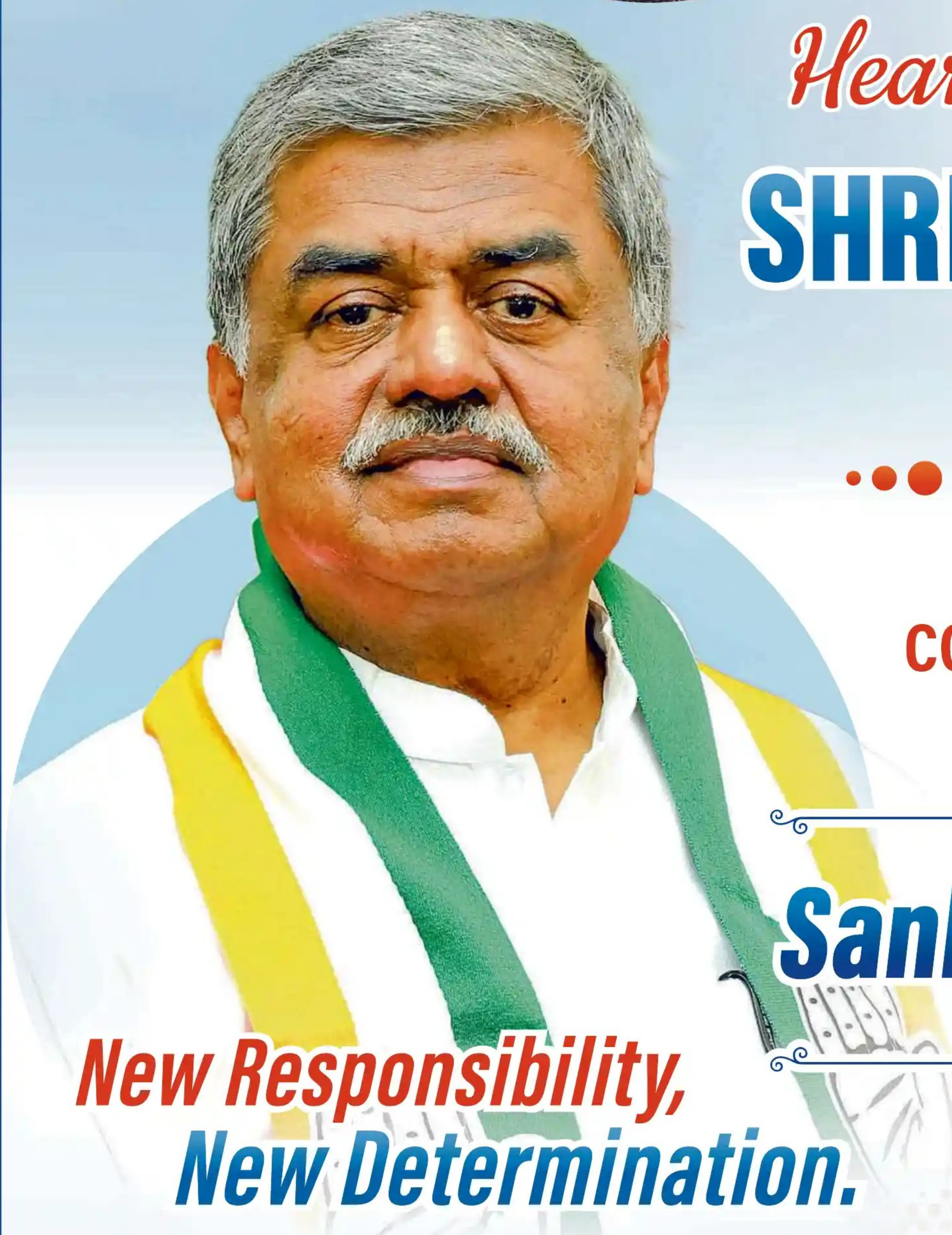
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SERVICE SHORTFALL: Minister flags vehicle shortage, poor segregation; warns contractors of penalties

Fix the system first, KBG tells waste management officials

BENGALURU, DHNS

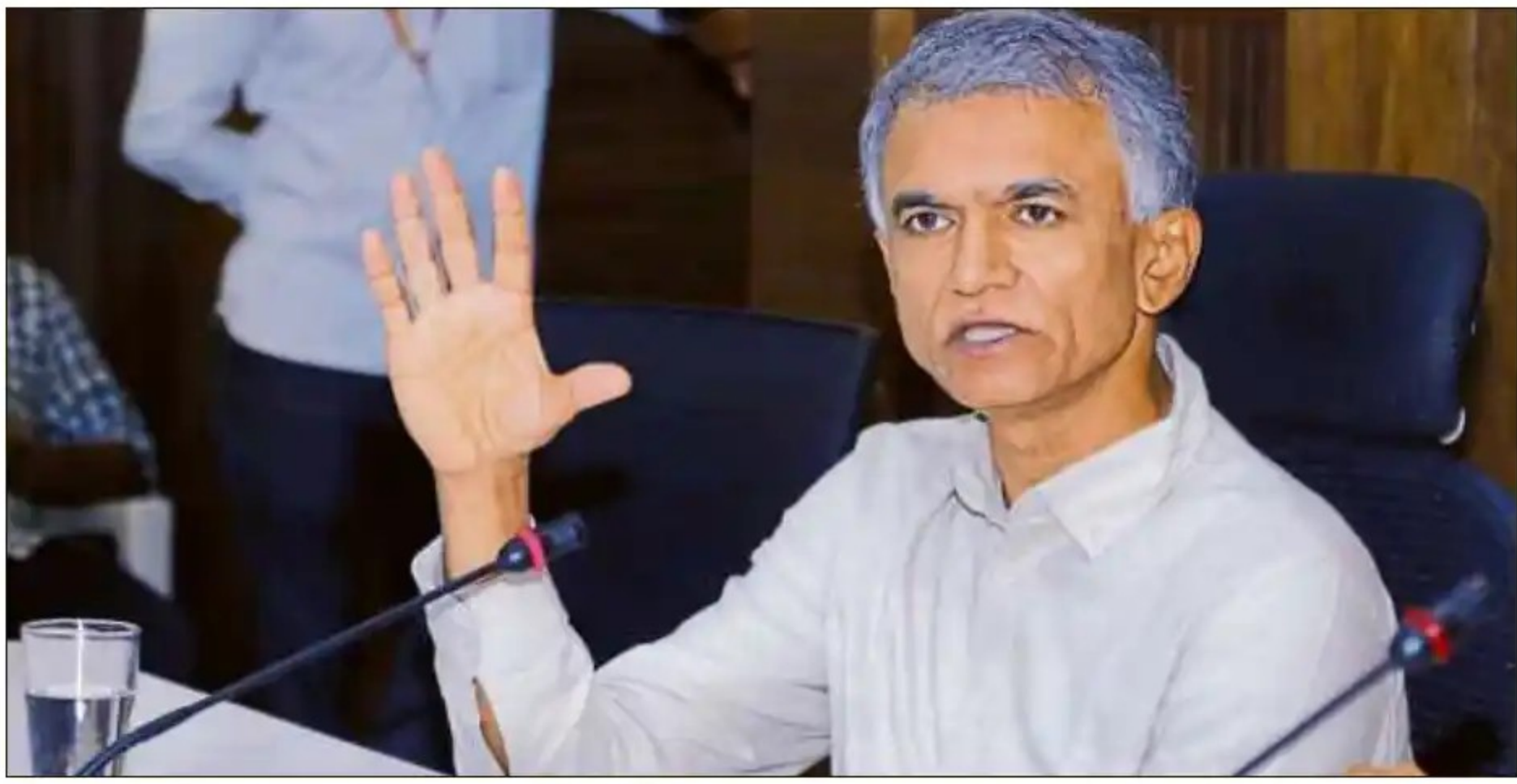
Greater Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda on Thursday said improving house-to-house garbage collection and boosting segregation at source would be his immediate priority, while admitting that solid waste management had become the city's most discussed civic issue.

Speaking to reporters after reviewing the city's solid waste management system, Gowda said Bengaluru had been managing waste in an ad-hoc manner for 15 years, as new tenders had repeatedly failed to take off.

"The problem is discussed everywhere. Today, we have discussed solutions. We have to make the existing system work," he said.

The minister said tenders for waste collection in 33 packages were at various stages of finalisation, while six were entangled in court cases.

"We will issue work orders for some packages in the coming weeks," he said. He attributed the poor state of waste collection to a shortage of vehicles and staff, ageing fleet, and



Greater Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda at the review meeting on Thursday. DH PHOTO

Rs 2,000 cr for 5 corporations

On Thursday, Minister Krishna Byre Gowda directed officials to identify roads in poor conditions, prepare estimates, float short-term tenders, and begin works within two months. The works would be completed in four to six months, subject to weather conditions.

"In the need for haste, I cannot ignore practical difficulties such as the monsoon rains," he said.

Gowda said the government had allocated Rs 2,000 crore for the five corporations, which would prioritise ward roads in a bad condition.



Uncollected garbage piles up on SJP Road, highlighting persistent waste management concerns in the city. DH PHOTO/PRASHANTH HG

The minister said Bengaluru's average waste segregation rate stood at 65%, though some wards had achieved only 40%. Both officials and contractors would face penalties for failing to improve segregation levels.

"The problem cannot be solved without segregation. People are searching for mega solutions to overcome this failure, but segregation remains key," Gowda said improving cleanliness and quality of life

From garbage bins to black spots

The minister recalled that Bengaluru once had RCC half-pipe bins across the city, but these were removed after segregation at source was introduced. Bins were subsequently installed at select locations, which encouraged people to dump waste in public spaces.

"Now, whether bins are there or not, people are throwing garbage wherever they want. If we question them, the marshals are assaulted," he said. The system already has officers, marshals, link workers, door-to-door collection staff and auto tippers at the ward level, the minister said. "We have to now make the system work."



Constant drainage leaks are worsening potholes, making daily commutes increasingly difficult for motorists. DH FILE

Bad design, poor checks & shortage of qualified engineers: Why city roads keep failing

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

Cause clash

Greater Bengaluru Authority: Potholes are primarily caused by stagnating rainwater and overflow from drainage systems.

Civil engineers: If proper road design and correct geometry were implemented, water would not stagnate in the first place.

Poor road design, standard quality checks, and a shortage of qualified engineers are the main reasons for pothole-ridden city roads, experts say.

Greater Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda, in his first meeting after taking charge, asked officials whether laying pothole-free roads was rocket science. Civil engineers said it was not, provided proper engineering practices were followed.

Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) officials have repeatedly attributed potholes to stagnating rainwater and drain overflow. Civil engineers, however, said water would not stagnate if correct road design and geometry were applied. "Cambers should be integrated into the design. They are slight slopes that allow water to flow towards the sides, preventing stagnation. While this is followed on highways, many city roads lack it," said Srikanth Channal of the Association of Consulting Civil Engineers, Bengaluru.

Channal noted that several city roads had no openings for nearly a kilometre to let rainwater drain out.

"In some cases, openings are provided only on one side, and if that side is blocked, water stagnates. The adjacent drains are also not desilted regularly, obstructing flow," he said.

Senior GBA engineers, speaking to *DH* on condition

of anonymity, said road thickness, the right bitumen mix, and laying temperature were all critical.

"The aggregates of the bituminous concrete should be tested. Depending on the type of mix, bitumen levels should be between 3.5% and 5.5%. All of this should be tested," one engineer said. Poor quality checks at the field level had left roads vulnerable, he added. Another engineer said utility agencies such as Bescom, BWSSB, and BMRC-CL compounded the problem by digging up roads without adequate restoration.

"They might dig up just one metre and refill it. But the adjacent metre is also weakened by the digging. This is not addressed, and the road deteriorates," he said.

Channal also flagged the absence of specialisation among corporation engineers.

"One day they are posted to look after roads, and the next they are transferred to the irrigation department. We need engineers who specialise in road management," he said.

Waste collection auto tippers marked present though absent

BENGALURU, DHNS

A surprise inspection conducted by the Bengaluru North City Corporation commissioner has uncovered widespread irregularities in the attendance marking of waste collection auto tippers.

BNCC Commissioner Pom-mala Sunil Kumar, who visited the auto-merging point near Wheeler Town flyover early on Thursday, found that only 21 of the 32 registered auto tippers were physically present.

"However, verification of the online attendance records revealed that 24 autos had been marked as operational in the app, despite only 21 being present. This indicated that attendance had been falsely marked for three autos through misuse of technology. The remaining vehicles were absent. It was also observed that some autos did not have helper staff, and none of the workers were wearing safety gloves," a BNCC statement said.

He constituted inspection teams to assess the situation



Auto tippers line a street in Rajajinagar.

QR attendance logged without vehicle presence

- Auto-merging points are geo-mapped, with attendance required through a mobile app by scanning a QR code within a 150-metre radius.
- Officials found instances where attendance was marked using QR codes even though the vehicles were not physically present at the designated locations.

at auto-merging points near Chicken Road, Kempegowda Layout, and KHB Colony.

The commissioner's team

and the other inspection teams found that, at several locations, less than 50% of the vehicles marked for duty were actually present. The surprise inspection was conducted following repeated public complaints.

During the inspection, officials reviewed the attendance of waste collection vehicles, punctuality of operations, staff performance and supervision by ward marshals. Based on the findings, Kumar described the lapses as serious negligence of duty and misuse of the attendance system. He directed officials to immediately remove the ward marshals from duty.

"Such irregularities have resulted in attendance being recorded despite vehicles not operating, thereby, affecting the efficiency of door-to-door waste collection services. Irresponsibility, misconduct or any form of malpractice in public service will not be tolerated."

Officials have been instructed to take measures to ensure punctuality and accountability in waste collection services.

Sarjapur Road in abysmal condition; commuters fume, post images on X

BENGALURU, DHNS

Commuters on Sarjapur Road have raised concerns about the deteriorating stretch near Junnasandra lane, where patches are prone to waterlogging and road works have dragged on for months.

Sanjukta, an X user, shared images of a dug-up road with broken concrete slabs on June 18. "The Silicon valley of India pretty much looking like this with few days of rain. Right opposite the Wipro SEZ office, Junnasandra lane entry. How are we supposed to walk and travel in this? Incomplete road work for six months."

The stretch has been a concern for residents and commuters for several months.

"The road condition is only getting worse. Initially, we were happy because the GBA had finally asphalted the road and it was in good condition. But soon enough, the road was broken down



First, they asphalted the road connecting Junnasandra Road and Sarjapur Road. Then they dug it up again. Apparently, only afterwards did they realise that the drains on both sides needed to be connected. The road has now been left open for over two months.

— Prashanth

alise that the drains on both sides needed to be connected. The road has now been left open for over two months."

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Traffic, South) Gopal M Byakod said traffic on the stretch was manageable despite waterlogging.

"The traffic only slows down when a heavy vehicle attempts a U-turn on that part of the road. We have asked the GBA for assistance. The GBA is also working on the waterlogging problem," he said.

200 Namma Clinic doctors to train on rare diseases

BENGALURU, DHNS: Dr Shyama Narang Foundation, in collaboration with Nimhans, is organising a specialised training programme for Namma Clinic doctors on managing rare diseases.

The workshops begin on Monday, coinciding with World Motor Neuron Disease (MND) Awareness Day, and will focus on strengthening community care for patients living with rare diseases.

The programme will cover neuro palliative care, treatment at home, management of secondary infections, nu-

tritional support, respiratory care, early identification of complications, and referral mechanisms.

"While there may not yet be a cure for many rare diseases, there is much that can be done to improve the quality of life of patients," said Vasanth Rao, founder managing trustee of Dr Shyama Narang Foundation. "By training Namma Clinic doctors, we are empowering our primary healthcare system to provide timely, compassionate, and accessible care closer to patients' homes. Awareness informs people, but training

transforms healthcare."

The inaugural workshop on Monday will train the first batch of doctors, with three additional batches planned in the coming weeks. The programme runs for a month, covering 200 doctors in batches of 50. The sessions will take place at Arogya Soudha.

The initiative builds on a collaboration between the Department of Health and Family Welfare, Namma Clinics and the Foundation, which encouraged patients with rare diseases to seek care at neighbourhood clinics.



The programme featured a sapling-planting ceremony.

World Environment Day initiative at St Charles PU College

BENGALURU, DHNS: St Charles PU College organised 'Together We Can Restore Earth', an initiative to mark World Environment Day 2026.

Most Rev Auxiliary Bishop Dr Joseph Susainthan P was the chief guest. Fr Balraj, Sr Elizabeth Leo, Sr Reeta Varghese, Sr Priscila Lobo, Sr Sheela Cruz, Sr Lucy, Monisha Lobo and T Paul Koshy were

also present at the event.

The programme featured a sapling-planting ceremony, an NSS-led procession, and initiatives such as GUDSWAP and plastic revival. Students also presented cultural and artistic performances.

The celebration additionally commemorated the anniversary of Canticale of the Creatures by St Francis of Assisi.

Kithaganur Lake revival boosts water storage capacity by 22%

BENGALURU, DHNS: The rejuvenation of Kithaganur Lake, a water body spanning 25 acres in east Bengaluru, has increased its storage capacity by 22%.

Daimler Truck Innovation Centre India (DTICI), in partnership with United Way Bengaluru (UWBe), undertook the project under the latter's 'Wake the Lake' campaign, which focuses on restoring the city's degraded water bodies.

The two organisations formally handed the restored lake to the gram panchayat on June 5, on World Environment Day.

Kithaganur Lake has faced years of neglect due to silt accumulation, sewage inflow, encroachments and blocked



The restored lake, spanning 25 acres in east Bengaluru, was formally handed over to the gram panchayat on June 5, on World Environment Day.

feeder channels, leading to reduced water storage and a decline in ecological health.

The effort included scientific desilting, clearing and reviving water channels, fencing, biodiversity enhancement

and community engagement for lasting conservation.

The lake now supports 65 species of flora and fauna and is expected to sequester nine tonnes of carbon annually, benefiting 24,000 residents in the surrounding areas.

Minister White opens its 65th Store in India, 6th in Karnataka, at Jayanagar



Pothiraj (middle), Managing Director, Otto Clothing Pvt. Ltd., inaugurated the store in Jayanagar

Minister White Paramparé, one of South India's leading men's traditional wear brands, inaugurated its 65th store in India and 6th store in Karnataka at Jayanagar. The new store was inaugurated by Pothiraj, Managing Director, Otto Clothing Pvt. Ltd., in the presence of distinguished

guests, customers, and well-wishers. The store offers an extensive range of premium dhoties, shirts, kurtas, fabrics, and wedding collections, bringing together tradition, elegance, and quality craftsmanship under one roof. The launch marks another significant milestone in

Minister White's expansion journey, reinforcing its commitment to serving customers across South India with authentic traditional wear and exceptional shopping experiences.

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BJP MPs oppose scrapping Veterinary College metro station from Phase 3A

BENGALURU, DHNS

BJP MPs, LS Tejasvi Surya and PC Mohan, have opposed the purported scrapping of the Veterinary College metro station from Phase 3A, which will connect Sarjapur with Hebbal via Koramangala.

On April 29, the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRL) submitted Phase 3A's revised Detailed Project Report (DPR) to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).

In December 2024, the Karnataka cabinet approved the

DPR, which estimated the project's overall cost at Rs 28,405 crore, or Rs 776.3 crore per km—the most expensive in Namma Metro's history. The ministry asked the BMRL to revise the cost.

Following a report by French multinational Sysstra, the tunnelling cost was reduced from Rs 300 crore per km to Rs 210 crore per km, while the length of underground stations was shortened from 210 metres to 170 metres, *DH* reported in October 2025. Some

reports suggested that the Veterinary College station was scrapped to further optimise the cost, although *DH* could not verify this.

Phase 3A's cost has now been reduced to Rs 25,999 crore, with land acquisition estimated to cost another Rs 950 crore, a BMRL official said.

Surya said the "real objective" behind dropping the station was to push the controversial 2.2-km tunnel road through Hebbal.

"The BMRL has cited low ridership for the station. Ironically, ridership for Veterinary College is estimated at 18,303 by 2031, higher than Sarjapur's, which would be just 15,559," he told *DH*.

Citing the original DPR, he said peak demand on Phase 3A would be 24,834 passengers per hour per direction by 2033, compared to just 6,500 vehicles per direction for the car-only tunnel road.

Asked about the short distance between the Ganganagar and Veterinary College stations (less than 1 km), he

said it was a busy area and the station would serve a large number of passengers.

He promised to take up the matter with the ministry.

Mohan echoed Surya in an X post, saying Bengaluru deserves better urban planning and governance.

The ministry is expected to take up to a year to review and approve the DPR. After approval, the BMRL typically takes a year to award civil contracts and begin groundwork.

Work is expected to start by the end of 2027, with a five-year completion timeline.

5-yr-old killed as compound wall and gate collapse; girl injured

He arrived in the city along with his mother just five days ago

BENGALURU, DHNS

A five-year-old boy was killed and a girl injured after a compound wall and iron gate collapsed on them while they were playing near a house in Bandikodigehalli, Bagalur, on Wednesday evening.

The deceased has been identified as Afeen. The girl,



People gather at the accident spot in Bagalur. (Inset) The victim, Afeen.

Samanvi Gowda, sustained injuries and is being treated at a hospital.

Police said the incident occurred around 6.30 pm when three children were play-

ing near the gate of a house, owned by BC Narasappa. The children were swinging on the iron gate when the already cracked compound wall gave way, bringing the gate down with it.

Residents who noticed the collapse rushed to the spot, pulled the children from under the debris and took them to a nearby private hospital.

Afeen, who had suffered severe head and chest injuries, died on the way to the hospital.

Afeen was the son of father Dawal Sab, a cab driver and a native of Yadgir. Afeen and his mother had arrived in Bengaluru only five days ago and were staying at a relative's house in Bandikodigehalli.

Incident in May

The incident comes barely a month after a similar incident in Chikkabanavara on May 9, where five-year-old Gausiya was killed and her three-year-old cousin Sumaiyya was injured after an iron gate collapsed on them while they were playing in front of a house.

A case of negligence has been registered against the house owner. Investigation is underway.

City businessman files extortion FIR against wife

Alleges she threatened to falsely claim he has AIDS

BENGALURU, DHNS

A Bengaluru-based businessman has accused his estranged wife of attempting to extort money from him by threatening to spread false rumours that he was suffering from HIV/AIDS.

Based on a complaint filed by the 51-year-old man, the Marathahalli police have booked 37-year-old Swathi B on charges of cheating, criminal breach of trust, theft, extortion, forgery, defamation, and criminal intimidation.

An investigation is underway.

The complainant runs a Computer-Aided Design and Drafting (CADD) training institute in Marathahalli. He met Swathi through a matrimonial platform in October 2021 and married her in February 2022.

However, he alleged that she later demanded Rs 50 lakh, threatening to ruin his reputation if he failed to meet her demands. Among the threats, he claimed, were false allegations that he was suffering from AIDS and running a prostitution racket.

The businessman further said that Swathi had misrepresented her educational qualifications and employment status before marriage, inducing him to spend substantial amounts on gold ornaments,

accommodation, investments and the educational expenses of her son from a previous marriage.

He also accused her of stealing Rs 18 lakh in cash, foreign currency, and gold and silver articles from his residence; taking away his car using duplicate keys; vandalising his office; forging his signature on a cheque; and withdrawing Rs 83,000 from his bank account.

She was married 3 times

Speaking to *DH*, the businessman alleged that Swathi had been married three times before marrying him.

"She often claimed to know judges, politicians and other influential people, and boasted that she could do anything against me if I opposed her," he alleged.

FIFA WORLD CUP FEVER

A giant banner of football icon Cristiano Ronaldo towers over Tannery Road as the FIFA World Cup fever grips Bengaluru. DH PHOTO/BK JANARDHAN

Technician booked for sending woman obscene texts

BENGALURU, DHNS: A man who repeatedly visited a 29-year-old woman's residence in Vasanthnagar and allegedly offered her massage services before sending obscene messages via Telegram has been booked by the High Grounds police.

According to the FIR, the woman, an employee of a private company, stated that the accused, who identified himself as Mr Khan, repeatedly knocked on her door between May 25 and May 30 and made vulgar remarks while offering massage services.

Despite her refusal, he continued to harass her, prompting her to approach the police.

A senior police officer said the accused is suspected to be a CCTV surveillance technician.

Preliminary investigations suggest that he may have obtained the woman's contact details through social media platforms and subsequently began sending messages to her. The woman told the police that she had neither met him nor known him previously.

Based on the complaint, the High Grounds police have registered a case.

Construction worker dies

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 32-year-old labourer from Bihar died after accidentally falling from the fourth floor of an under-construction building in RT Nagar on Thursday.

The deceased, Raj Kumar, had come to the city for work a few months ago.

The incident occurred at 7.30 am in Chamundi Nagar. Police registered a case of negligence against the building contractor and site supervisor.

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◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL
Bharatiya Agro Economics Research Centre, Samanvaya Trust and Bharatiya Kisan Sangha: Discussion on the pros and cons of acquiring agricultural land; Pramod Choudhari, Sai Reddy, Ashok Dalvai, Chandrashekhar M Biradar and others; Gandhi Bhavan, Kumara Park Road; 10.30 am.

CULTURAL
Rhythms Retro: Busic by Bharat Ramanujam, Sujata, Nagaraj, Sharad, Suhas Bhat, Sitarama Shastri, Sahana Rakesh, Manasa and Sharanya Seetharam; Chowdaiah Memorial Hall, Malleswaram; from 6 pm onwards.

Rahi Theatre: Staging of the play 'Drohi Zindagi', directed by Guirleen Judge.

'Seagull' Kolkata: 'Broken foot journal and other stories', exhibition of works by Reba Hore, Karnataka Chitrakala Parishat; from 11 am.

Tanushree Art Centre: Inauguration of art exhibition 'Daivika mattu Parisara'; Devaraj Urs Gallery, Chitrakala Parishat; 5 pm.

RELIGIOUS
Ragigudda Prasanna Anjaneyaswamy Bhaktamandali Trust: Discourse on Valmiki Ramayana and Sundarakanda by Ramachandrmurthy; Trust premises, Jayanagar 9th Block; 6.30 pm.

Raksha Foundation: Lalita Sahasranama puja by 3,000 women, Subudhendra Teertha Swami, CK Ramamurthy, Tejasvi Surya and others; Shalini playground, Jayanagar 5th Block; 9.30 am.

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◆ CITYWEATHER ◆

FORECAST
Generally cloudy sky with light rain

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	26.6°C
Minimum	22.0°C

Rainfall (as of 8:30 am) --
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm) 84%
Sunset (June 19) 6:47 pm
Sunrise (June 20) 5:54 am
Moonrise 9:06 am
Moonset 10:08 pm

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

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	MICROBIOLOGY	2	
3	BIOCHEMISTRY	4	4
4	COMMUNITY MEDICINE	-	1
5	FORENSIC MEDICINE	1	4
6	GENERAL MEDICINE	3	1
7	GENERAL SURGERY	2	1
8	OBG	1	-
	OPHTHALMOLOGY	1	
9	EMERGENCY MEDICINE & ICU	2	5 MD/DNB in Emergency Medicine / Medicine / Anaesthesia / pulmonology/ General Surgery

FOR SUPER SPECIALITY DEPARTMENT

SL.NO	Department	No of Posts	Qualification
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2	Medical Oncologist	1	DM/DnB in Medical Oncology
3	Cardiology	2	DM Cardiology
4	Neurology	1	DM Neurology
5	Interventional Radiologist	Consultant	Radiologist (PDCC)
6	Cardio Thoracic Surgery	Consultant	Mch
7	Neurosurgery	2 (1 Prof) (1 Asso.Prof)	Mch

Eligibility Criteria: as per National Medical Council Norms

Walk in Interview on 22.06.2026, Monday at 2.00 PM

Venue: Rajya Vokkaligara Sangha, No.148, Krishnarajendra Road, 2nd Floor, Meeting Hall, V.V Pura, Bangalore-560004

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For any Queries Please contact Dr. Jagannatha B, Principal, Mob: 9448081088

Watch parties surge amid World Cup fever

With kick-offs scheduled in the wee hours, football fans are finding the best seats in living rooms

SUBHASHINI RAMASAMY
TEAM METROLIFE

It is 10.30 pm on a Sunday night, the television is on, and the pizza has arrived. Seven people have claimed their spots, waiting for the Germany vs Curaçao FIFA Men's World Cup match to begin. At Pragati Banka's home on Old Airport Road, there is no fancy setup, just friends who also happen to play football.

With most matches being scheduled at odd hours between 10.30 pm and 7.30 am, football fans have no option but to watch the games at home. Consequently, watch parties have become a common fixture across the city. Some have also invested in projectors to recreate the feeling of catching their favourite teams on the big screen.

"I host watch parties for the World Cup and other important games," says Pragati, founder of Equal Play Collective, a Bengaluru-based sports community. Her house parties are limited to her immediate circle and she is due to host another one on Saturday.

Worth the night's sleep

Hemanth Balasubramanian, chairman of the Official Liverpool Supporters Club in Bengaluru, has watched two consecutive matches in one night, squeezing in some sleep between them. He shares that club members set up projectors at home for watch parties, with 10 to 15 people gathering overnight. "We're all working professionals doing it out of passion," he notes.



Steven Connolly (extreme left) and Andrew Hollister (centre) host watch parties for Australia matches.

Such gatherings have increased since the pandemic, as most venues screening live matches close at 1 am, he observes. The members also open up their homes for important league matches.

Love of hosting

Mahendra (name changed), a resident of Kalyan Nagar, is going all out for his debut this Saturday with a projector, string lights, bean bags, and football-themed flags in his backyard. "The space can accommodate up to 40 people. I have gotten over 30 confirmations via a Google form that I shared on Reddit and WhatsApp groups," says Mahendra.

Australian consul Andrew Collister, and Deputy Consul General Steven Connolly, have been hosting gatherings at their respective homes for the Australia matches. On the menu are a mix of Australian and Indian snacks such as bacon, eggs, samosas, and Vegemite scrolls.

"The guests are both Indians and expats. For foreign residents, these events are a great way to meet people and really feel like a local," says Andrew.

Beyond the match

Arijit Mitra, who has been a regular at such watch parties, has observed that some guests treat these gatherings as a space to socialise and others have a genuine interest in football. "When these groups meet, there is a transfer of passion," says Arijit. "At watch parties, I personally enjoy sharing less-known stories about the game."

Saachi Shetty has lost count of the number of watch parties she has been to. She particularly enjoys watching the World Cup and Champions League matches, and the discussions that follow. "Since most matches are late at night, watching with a group helps me stay awake," she jokes.

How football is uniting Japanese in the city

Japanese expats have quietly built a thriving community whose agenda is beyond just sport

SHRADDHA A K
TEAM METROLIFE

The city's Japanese football community is building friendship and belonging in a city thousands of kilometres from home. As Japan's Men's World Cup team is winning fans worldwide not just for their performances but also for their discipline, teamwork and respect on and off the pitch, those same values are quietly taking root in Bengaluru.

Home to a growing Japanese community, the city now hosts long-running football group FC Kogen Kikou and development-focused academy Samurai Bangalore Football Club, bringing together hundreds of players, professionals and families. For many, football has become more than a sport — it is a way to build community, preserve culture and create a home away from home.



FC Kogen Kikou was started to give the Japanese community a chance to socialise beyond the field. (Right) Taiki Yoshida, head coach of Samurai Bangalore Football Club.

More than a club

For members of FC Kogen Kikou, football is as much about community as it is about the game itself. Active within Bengaluru's Japanese community for over a decade, the club brings together professionals, students and long-term residents through weekly matches and amateur leagues.

Its group on the social media platform LINE has over 100 members, including former residents who have since returned to Japan. Players are aged between 22 and 64.

"Football is a good communication tool," says 33-year-old Okada Yuta, who joined the club in 2019. "You make friends, share information and spend time together."

Many members arrive in India on

work assignments, often without family. What begins as a Sunday game becomes something more meaningful. Teammates help newcomers settle in, offering advice and company long after the final whistle.

"Having teammates and friends here makes Bengaluru feel much more like home," says 42-year-old Yuta Namiki, who joined the club soon after he arrived in the city two years ago.

The team regularly participates in local competitions and recently finished as runners-up in an All India Japanese football tournament featuring teams from Bengaluru, Chennai, Mumbai and Delhi.

Japanese coach in B'lu

When Osaka native Taiki Yoshida arrived in India, he was surprised by the difference in coaching philosophy. "The biggest difference is that Japanese coaches focus on the player's journey, developing technical and tactical skills over time," Taiki says. Whereas, in India, he feels the emphasis is often placed on winning matches and fast-tracking players to the professional level rather than developing the individual's technical skills. He adds that consistent repetition of core fundamentals, from ball control and body positioning to movement off the ball, forms the foundation of a player's development.

In 2019, Taiki founded Samurai Bangalore Football Club to introduce aspects of Japanese grassroots coaching to Bengaluru. Today, the academy trains more than 400 students across three centres and recently launched a girls' programme.

His academy's teams now compete in the KSFA Youth Premier League, while professional clubs have approached him for coaching inputs.

Concerts, talks and more on World Music Day

ANAGHA RAO
TEAM METROLIFE

From jazz and folk to Karnatik music and cross-cultural collaborations, the city will witness an eclectic line-up of events to mark World Music Day on June 21.

Fete de la Musique

This annual music festival at Alliance Française will feature more than 100 artistes across three stages. The headline act is by singer-pianist Tarang Joseph. Other acts will spotlight genres like folk, jazz, rock, choir, metal, fusion and Karnatik music. Groups like The Moksha Quartet, Boomkulture, and The Bangalore Men will perform. *June 21, 2 pm-10 pm, Alliance Française de Bangalore, Vasanth Nagar. Entry free. For details, contact 78995 82404.*

World Music Weekend

This three-day festival features talks, performances, and listening sessions. Highlights include a listening session on Ilaiyaraaja's compositions by Goutham Iyengar and Sakré on June 19, 6 pm; a harmonium lecture-demonstration by Ravindra Katoti on June 20,

4 pm, and an interactive jazz and Indian music session by Aman Mahajan on June 21, 4 pm. A vinyl listening station by Ram's Music will be set up on June 20 and 21. *June 19-21, Indian Music Experience museum, JP Nagar. Tickets and details on indianmusicexperience.org*

Songs from the Silk Route

Academician and curator Dr Tejaswini Niranjana will host a talk exploring musical connections forged along the Silk Route, this Sunday. The session will highlight the universality of music. *June 21, 12 noon-2 pm, Atta Galatta, Indiranagar. Check @pinto@view.club on Instagram.*

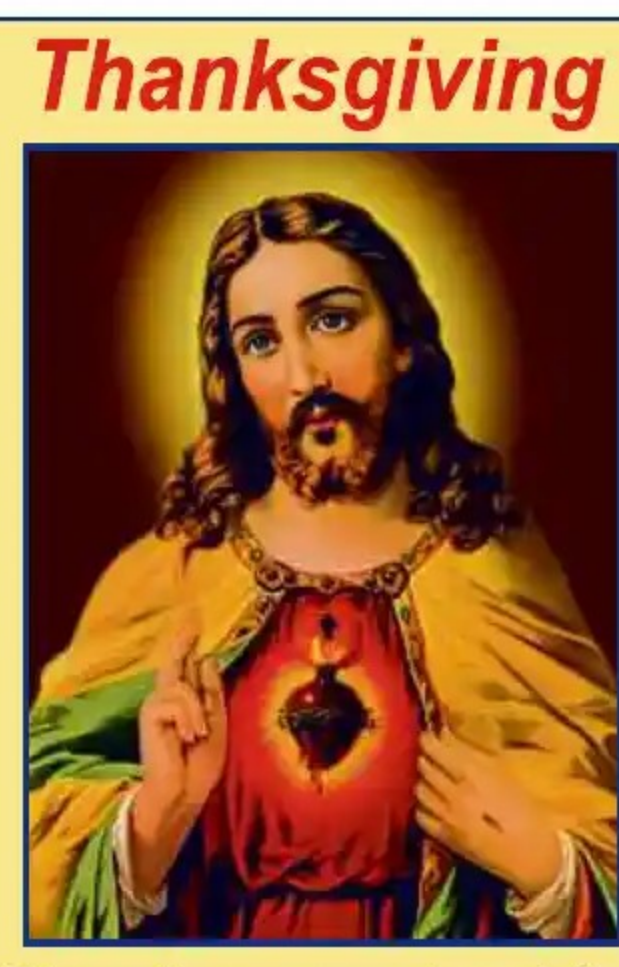
Bhavageethe workshop

Playback singer **MD Pallavi** will lead a bhavageethe workshop on Sunday. It will include vocal exercises, singing techniques, and discussions on music and poetry. Open to beginners and trained musicians. *June 21, 10.30 am-12.30 pm, Jama - The Studio, Jayanagar 2nd Block. Tickets on jamathestudio.com. For details, contact 98458 48545.*



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17th-century composition on stage on Sat

It was composed by Mysuru Wodeyar king Chikka Devaraja

POORVI SANATH
TEAM METROLIFE

Vanamala Center for Art and Culture will perform 12 songs from 'Sri Geeta Gopalam', composed by the celebrated 17th-century Mysuru king Chikka Devaraja Wodeyar. It will be performed on June 20 at 'Trim-shat', the centre's 30th anniversary celebration.

The composition, which praises the Hindu god Krishna, is one of the first compositions to preach the tenets of Ramanujacharya's Vish-

ishtadvaita philosophy in Kannada.

Meera Rajaram Pranesh and her team at the Vanamala Center have reconstructed the composition.

'Sri Geeta Gopalam' is a Geya Prabandha (a genre of medieval Indian musical literature) that researcher, linguist, and music critic B V K Sastry introduced to mainstream performers and scholars at the Music Academy, Madras, in 1971. Structured as a saptapadi — the seven vows of a Hindu marriage repurposed as a framework for devotion — its first half features the romance of Krishna and the Gopis, and its second half, the path to salvation. The 83 songs are set to ragas exclusive to the 17th century — among them are Madhumadhavi, Narayani, and Gumma Kamboji which existed only in manuscript.



Meera Rajaram Pranesh (centre) and her team working on 'Sri Geeta Gopalam'.

The songs, all in Halegannada (old Kannada), had no vocal tradition to draw from. Research for the project went back to Meera's doctoral work on the music of Mysuru Wodeyars. "Musicology and performance are not parallel; they

go hand in hand," says Meera, who always wanted to bring these songs to the stage.

Vanamala Center has expanded to encompass India's varied art forms. Among Meera's biggest achievements is the library which

has over 3,000 books and manuscripts, all specialising in Indian art and culture. Over the years, her team has worked on disseminating the esoteric Sri Chakra and Dasha Mahavidya concepts through documentaries. She hopes to produce more documentaries.

Guests at the two-day event include musicologist T S Sathyavathi, art historian Choodamani Nandagopal, vocalist R K Padmanabha, and political scientist Sandeep Shastri. The event also includes a symposium, a book and journal release, and a percussion ensemble.

On June 20, at Indian Institute of World Culture, Basavanagudi, and on June 21 at Gayana Samaja, Basavanagudi. Entry free. For details, check on @vanamalaartsandculture on Instagram.

FIND YOUR VIBE

Five new communities bringing strangers together

Read, quiz, share stories, or unplug from screens at these gatherings

VIBHA S BHAT
TEAM METROLIFE

The South Asian History Society

This monthly reading community spotlights South Asian history and literature in English, ranging from Manto's 'Toba Tek Singh' to translated works by Bama and Narayan. Participants discuss topics including translation practices, contemporary politics, and intersectional questions around caste, gender, and religion. Ayushree Nandan, a learning and development professional, launched it in April. She chose to focus on South Asia because of "our collective history and culture". The community now also plans to host talks and screen movies.

Reach them at thesouthasian-historysociety.substack.com

The Kyu Co.

Marketing professionals Manasa Ramakrishnan and Aritro Bhattacharya are giving quiz and trivia nights a social spin through their three-month-old venture. They host about 10 gatherings a month. These are designed to be screen-free and to encourage conversation and collaboration. They offer three activity formats. 'Wait, I Know This!' is a team-based general quiz designed to encourage lateral thinking. TIL, or 'Today I Learned', is an open mic session where participants share surprising nuggets of knowledge with the room. Unlike the first



The Kyu Co. hosts about 10 quizzing and trivia meetups every month.

two, 'Figuring Out with The Kyu Co.' is a non-competitive format in which worksheets are distributed, and participants find solutions to real-life scenarios. The duo aims to create what they call "a curious community".

Sunday Library

Vibhuti and Sachin, a couple who work as consultants with the UN, host phone-free, analogue gatherings at their home in Cooke Town every Sunday. The initiative began in January, driven by Vibhuti's desire to create a "distraction-free zone" for people. Attendees are encouraged to bring books, art supplies or journals and spend time engaging with them before breaking for tea. According to Vibhuti, some regular participants are now able to concentrate better, while others say it has helped them reclaim their reading habits. *Visit @sundaylibrary.bangalore on Instagram.*

Writer's Evenings

This weekly forum brings people together to write on pre-decided themes. It was started in March by Priya Parikh,

who has a master's degree in film, and is now facilitated by writer and creative consultant Anya Shankar. Each meetup revolves around a prompt, while occasional sessions allow participants to write about anything they like. Prompts are curated to create what Anya describes as "harmless discomfort", nudging writers into "new headspaces". Motifs such as spirals and themes like belonging are some ideas the group often returns to. Participants experiment with forms including essays, haiku and free-verse poetry.

Connect on @nunyums on Instagram.

Little Things

This weekly meetup aims to foster open conversations about vulnerable feelings. Shruti Vadrev, a data science researcher who started it in March, believes conversations can help heal. The idea came to her after a "life-changing encounter" on the banks of the Ganga. She was feeling tense and overwhelmed by all she wanted to accomplish in life when she met a 60-year-old man from Italy. The stranger told her, "Why can't you just be? We are human beings, not human doings (sic)."

Shruti says topics of discussion emerge organically from participants and often revolve around themes such as freedom and nostalgia. Each session is conceptualised around a prompt and may include activities such as memory exercises, letter writing, acting and music. She says some attendees have already become close friends.

Write to @littlthings.blr on Instagram.

CITY MIX

Fest on arts, body and memory

The National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA), Bengaluru, presents 'Somatic Bodies in the City', a three-day event curated by Smitha Cariappa from June 19 to 21. It brings together artists from across the country for performances, talks and panel discussions exploring the body, memory, public space, and contemporary live art practices. Highlights include talks by Umesh Nayak, G Vignesh and Dr Godwin Constantine, alongside a panel discussion featuring artists and practitioners. The event will be held at the NGMA premises on Palace Road. For details, check @ngma_bengaluru on Instagram.

Call for film entries

The Bangalore Documentary Film Festival (BDDF), organised by Bangalore Film Forum, is inviting submissions for its inaugural edition. Dedicated to contemporary documentary cinema, the festival welcomes feature-length and short documentaries, essay films, hybrid works, observational cinema, personal documentaries, and experimental nonfiction projects. Indian filmmakers can submit works completed after January 2025. Submit your entries through filmfreeway.com

Remembering fathers

Ahead of Father's Day (June 21), Urban Solace, Halasuru, is inviting citizens to share advice and life lessons from their fathers and mentors. Contributions to the initiative, titled 'Things Dad Said...', will be displayed as part of a growing Wall of Wisdom installation at the cafe and shared across its social media platforms. To participate, check @myurbansolace on Instagram or contact via WhatsApp on 98450 13055.

Spotlight on artistic practice

Mastery by StoneX: Journey of Excellence returns for its second season, with an evening dedicated to artistic practice and creative excellence. The programme will feature film screenings, a conversation with percussionist V Selvaanesh and dancer-choreographer Anita Ratnam, and a live performance by vocalist Sandeep Narayan.



Anita Ratnam



Sandeep Narayan

The series explores the discipline, journeys, and philosophies that shape accomplished artists across fields. On June 19, 6 pm at Sabha Blr, Kamaraj Road.

To get your event listed, write to metrolife@deccanherald.co.in

KARWAR, PTI

A case of alleged act of vigilantism has been reported in the coastal town of Bhatkal in Uttara Kannada district, where members of Hindu organisations intercepted a car carrying a Muslim youth and a Hindu woman on Wednesday evening, leading to protests and a police FIR against the activists.

According to preliminary reports, the incident occurred late evening on the Bhatkal-Sagar Road when Hindu organisation leaders stopped the vehicle upon receiving information that a Muslim man was escorting the Hindu woman to an unknown destination.

The group questioned the occupants of the car. The woman was subsequently sent back to her residence in Bhatkal, while the Muslim youth was handed over to the police.

Police registered a First Information Report (FIR) against the Hindu leaders involved in the interception, prompting strong opposition

from Hindu organisations.

Activists argued that the FIR was unjustified since the woman was safely returned to her family and the youth was handed over to authorities without any harm.

Hundreds of Hindu activists later gathered at the Bhatkal Town police station, staging a protest and demanding an explanation from the police for booking their leaders.

They questioned the rationale behind the FIR when the Muslim youth had been delivered safely into police custody.

Local authorities have initiated an investigation into the matter.

The police have not yet released details about the nature of the relationship between the woman and the youth or the specific charges mentioned in the FIR. The police, however, have maintained that Bhatkal being a sensitive area, they had to take immediate action, but they are investigating the matter in detail the police stated.

The project was estimated to cost Rs 9,000 crore in 2018-19 and the same is being revised. However, prior to finalising that revision, the state government is waiting for a clearance from Central experts.

“The feasibility of the proposal to draw 67.16 tmcft of water from Cauvery is being verified by the hydrology directorate of the Central Water Commission. Once the clearance comes, we will have a clarity on the infrastructure requirement, particularly the height of the dam. Though we have a rough estimate, it is better to wait for clarity on technical matters before finalising the cost,” a source said.

To a question, Gupta said the Detailed Project Report was under revision. “We don’t want to put a number on the cost yet. The project will be submitted to the Central government authorities, naturally, stakeholders [referring to Tamil Nadu] will have their say there,” he said.

Thursday.

The deceased was identified as Akash Neelannavar, a class IV student of Vidyaajyothi Residential School.

According to the police, Akash sustained severe injuries after falling from the first-floor balcony of the school building. He was rushed to a hospital, but succumbed to the injuries before he could receive treatment.

The circumstances leading to the incident remain unclear. The police said whether the boy accidentally fell down from the building or died by suicide was yet to be ascertained..

Akash’s father Vasanth, has filed a complaint alleging harassment by teachers, which led to his son ending his life by jumping from the school building. However, the school authorities have told the police that Akash accidentally fell from the building. Navalgund Police have registered a case of unnatural death and launched an inquiry.

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Shocked by 'three cross-votes,' BJP mulls action

Luring by ruling party one of the reasons suspected

BENGALURU, DHNS

Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka claimed on Thursday that “three BJP MLAs had cross-voted” in favour of the Congress, adding that the party would “take action”.

Addressing reporters after the Legislative Council polls for seven constituencies, in which five Congress and two BJP candidates emerged victorious, Ashoka said: “We have information that three of our votes have crossed. We will definitely find out who did it. Further, the party will take action on that.”

The cross-voting has come as a shock to the BJP, which hadn't anticipated any cross-voting from within its fold.

It's being speculated that



Leader of Opposition in Council Chalavadi Narayanaswamy, BJP state president B Y Vijayendra and Opposition leader in Assembly R Ashoka congratulate newly elected MLCs Lingaraj Patil and Raghu Kautilya, in Bengaluru on Thursday.

differences within the party, disgruntlement over the state leadership, as well as potential luring by the ruling party may have caused the cross-votes.

For the BJP, which has already expelled MLAs S T Somashekar and Shivaram Hebbar for reportedly being close to the Congress, this comes as a further setback.

Ashoka clarified that of the 64 votes with the BJP (including Janardhana Reddy and expelled MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal), 30 had been as-

signed to Raghu Kautilya, 30 to Lingaraj Patil and 4 to the JD(S).

The LoP explained that one vote to Kautilya had been invalidated, 3 votes assigned to Patil went in favour of Congress, while all four assigned to JD(S) had been polled for JD(S) itself (no cross votes in those four assigned to the regional party).

Going by Ashoka's claims, it appears that there have been eight cross-votes from the BJP's alliance partner JD(S).

With majority in Council, Congress eyes review of cattle slaughter ban

Looks to fulfil key demand of Muslim community

BENGALURU, DHNS

With Congress gaining a majority in the Legislative Council for the first time in years, plans are afoot to review the blanket ban on cattle slaughter introduced when the BJP was in power.

In fact, some Congress lawmakers, anticipating a majority in the Upper House, had started discussions on introducing a new Bill to reverse the cattle ban, which is among the key demands of the Muslim community.

The governing Congress is trying to repair the damage of the backlash it received from the Muslim community during the Davangere South bypoll.

While Congress won the bypoll, there was a split in votes apparently because of anger that a Muslim was not given the ticket.

Last month, just days after the bypoll result, the Congress government withdrew a 2022 ban on Muslim girls wearing the hijab in classrooms.

Two Muslim lawmakers confirmed to *DH* that the party was expected to legislatively act on the ban on cattle slaughter.

In 2020, the BJP government introduced the stringent Karnataka Prevention of Slaughter and Preservation of Cattle Act, which replaced a 1964 law.

The old law allowed slaughter of bulls, bullocks and buffaloes aged over 12 years or if they were unfit for breeding or did not yield milk.

The BJP government's law imposed a blanket ban on the slaughter of cows. The only slaughter allowed is of terminally-ill cattle. Also, buffaloes above the age of 13 years can be slaughtered with permission.



Chief Minister D K Shivakumar greets newly elected MLCs Vinay Karthik, B S Shivanna, Thippannappa Kamakanur, P V Mohan and B K Hariprasad, in Bengaluru on Thursday.

DH PHOTO/RANJU P

The previous Siddaramaiah government could not repeal the 2020 law as Congress lacked numbers in the Legislative Council. Also, Hindu seers had publicly urged Siddaramaiah not to withdraw the cow slaughter law.

“We're discussing a middle path. We needn't revert to the old 1964 law. At the same time, we can remove the blanket ban. We're working something out,” one Congress lawmaker said, adding that the party is mindful of being branded as “anti-Hindu” by the BJP.

The lack of a Congress majority meant that the combined BJP-JD(S) Opposition could defeat key Bills in the Council. For example, a Bill to take a

portion of revenue from rich Hindu temples for a common pool of funds was defeated in 2024.

Another lawmaker said that withdrawal of the cattle slaughter ban was among Congress' pre-poll promises. This lawmaker also pointed out that the Karnataka Protection of Right to Freedom of Religion Act, 2022, also known as the anti-conversion law, was pending withdrawal. Christian groups want this law gone.

In June 2023, soon after Congress came to power, the Cabinet decided to repeal the anti-conversion law. However, the legislative move required was never done and the Act remains in force.

Expelled leader Yatnal supports BJP

BENGALURU, DHNS: In what is seen as a deliberate attempt to bury the hatchet and eventually return to the BJP, expelled Bijapur City MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal claimed on Thursday that he had voted for the BJP candidate in the Council polls.

Speaking to a private channel after casting his vote, Yatnal said: “The party (BJP) has given me a lot of recognition, made me a union minister... I am not in need of any of that (favours by Congress). As long as I am elected on the BJP symbol, my loyalty is to it.”

The Bijapur MLA claimed that the Congress had earlier sought his vote to move a no-confidence motion against the then MLC chairperson D H Shankaramurthy.

“Siddaramaiah (first term as CM) assured to give me Sindagi or Devar Hippargi Congress ticket and grants for development if I support the no-confidence motion... I refused and because of my vote, the no-confidence motion was rejected...” Yatnal added. He was expelled from the BJP in March 2025 after repeatedly making allegations against former CM B S Yediyurappa and his son B Y Vijayendra.



Basanagouda Patil Yatnal

Writers, activists flag voter deletion fears in SIR

BENGALURU, DHNS: A collective of Kannada writers, intellectuals and activists has written an open letter to the State Election Commission (SEC) and the state government, expressing concern over the potential mass disenfranchisement of genuine voters due to automated digital verification processes.

The open letter claims that automated processes or specific software-driven verification methods similar to those deployed in states like West Bengal risk stripping the poor, marginalised and rural communities of their fundamental right to vote due to technical discrepancies or a lack of new documentation.

The signatories alleged that across various states, anywhere between 20 lakh and 3 crore eligible voters have been “dropped” from electoral rolls due to rigid verification frameworks.

They cautioned that such exercises act as a backdoor implementation of citizen exclusion policies, creating an atmosphere of anxiety and potentially reducing vulnerable populations to second-class citizens.

Protest on June 20

The fraternity backed by actor-activist Prakash Raj, noted critics and writers Prof Rahamat Tarikere, Mudnakudu Chinnaswamy, Banu Mushtaq and Purushottama Bilimale, former minister BT Lalitha Naik, Prof Rajendra Chenni, Banjarage Jayaprakash and acclaimed authors Vivek Shanbhag and Jayant Kaini, among others have expressed their solidarity with the massive protest meeting scheduled at Freedom Park on June 20.

Key demands

The Election Commission must refrain from using automated logical discrepancy software that led to large-scale deletions elsewhere.

Draft electoral rolls must undergo physical verification by convening mandatory gram sabhas and ward sabhas in urban pockets before finalisation.

Citizens must be given a minimum window of six months to submit necessary documents, corrections or file objections.

The government must actively improve the master roll by adopting social audit criteria formulated by the commission to ensure no eligible citizen is left behind.

Ugrappa accuses Yatnal of violating secrecy, seeks vote rejection

BENGALURU, DHNS

Congress leader and former MP V S Ugrappa on Thursday alleged that Bijapur City MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal had violated secrecy by reportedly writing to the BJP National President on his intent to vote for the saffron party.

The elections for the seven MLC posts held on Thursday. Five candidates from the Congress, two from the BJP and one from the JD(S) were in the fray.

Addressing reporters, Ugrappa said: “Basanagouda Patil Yatnal has written an open letter yesterday to

the BJP national president. In that letter, he has clearly mentioned that he will vote for BJP candidate Lingaraj Patil. Today, when we questioned him when he came to vote, he accepted that he had written the letter. He said the BJP people were ‘thieves,’ and if not for the letter, would've said that he voted for the Congress.”

Ugrappa alleged that this was a violation of Rule 39 of the Conduct Rules 1961. He noted that even as the Congress had objected to considering Yatnal's vote, the returning officer had rejected it.

“This clearly shows that the BJP and their supporters don't have any respect for the

Constitution, democracy and electoral procedure. This is a very anti-democratic attitude... People can question this in the court.”

Ravikumar hits back

Meanwhile, hitting back at Ugrappa, Chief Whip of the Opposition in the Legislative Council, N Ravikumar, said: “I want to ask Congress' election agent Ugrappa: It's not allowed to show a letter like that, ask questions in the election hall. How did he show the letter? The polling agent has to check if everyone's name is on the voter list or not... However, the returning officer allowed it (Yatnal's vote).”

Priyank hits back at Jigajinagi: 'I've Ambedkar's blood; fear ethics, not threats'

BENGALURU, DHNS

In a sharp counter to Bijapur MP Ramesh Jigajinagi's statement, “why a Dalit should be concerned about RSS,” Home Minister Priyank Kharge said on Thursday that he doesn't fear threats by those “who don't have constitutional recognition.”

Taking to X (formerly Twitter), Priyank said: “...For Jigajinagi, who is also a Dalit, is this frustration on not being able to enter the sanctum sanctorum of the RSS? Is it a warning to not question the RSS which believes in the fundamentalism of a hierarchical

social order?”

Both Priyank and Jigajinagi are leaders from the Dalit community and hail from the North Karnataka region. Jigajinagi's statement on Wednesday was aimed at Priyank's attempt to question the RSS' legal status and their source of funds.

Accusing the RSS of being an organisation formed to protect the interests of those with a superiority complex, the Home minister wondered whether Jigajinagi's comment was a jibe that he (Priyank) as a Dalit could not question it.

Referring to Jigajinagi's an-

other claim that “no one who has messed with RSS has ever survived,” the Home minister wondered whether RSS was a “terrorist” organisation, and whether it “finishes” those questioning it.

“Ramesh Jigajinagi, I believe in Babasaheb's (Dr B R Ambedkar) ideology, the courage and ideology to question has come from there itself. People who believe in Babasaheb don't know what is fear. We are protected by the Constitution and will not fear those who don't have constitutional recognition. I fear ethics, not threats, because we have Ambedkar's blood.”

50% rebate on pending traffic e-challan fines till July 10

BENGALURU, DHNS

The state government has announced a limited-time 50% concession on pending traffic e-challan fines, allowing vehicle users to settle outstanding penalties at half the prescribed amount.

The concession applies to cases registered by the Police Department where the penalties have not yet been paid. Motorists with pending traffic violations can take advantage of the scheme by paying 50% of the fine within the three-week window.

The members of the pub-

lic can pay via the Karnataka State Police (KSP) mobile app or through the BTP ASTraM app. Payments may also be made in person by providing the vehicle registration number at the nearest traffic police station.

Special counters have been set up at 12 locations across the city to process payments quickly. These include Hennur junction (Ring Road), Devasandra junction (Old Madras Road), Kundalahalli junction (Old Airport Road), Mysuru Bank junction (KG Road), Sumanahalli junction (Magadi Road), Metro (BHEL) on Mysuru

Road, near the RTO office on 12th Main Road, Jalalahalli Cross junction (Tumkur Road), Hebbal junction (Bellary Road), Sagar junction (K G Road), Hosa Road junction (Electronics City Road) and Gottigere junction (Bannerghatta Road).

Additionally, payments can be made at the Traffic Management Centre and through the Karnataka One website and its physical centres, officials noted.

The police have urged the public to make use of the opportunity to clear pending fines and avoid future enforcement actions.

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1.	Municipal No. 421/58/4B/58/10/1, E-PID No. 9878221854,	5696 Sq.Ft	East : Private Property; West : Road and Private Property; North : Private Property; South : Site No.2 and Road.
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PERSONAL

Change of Name

CHANGE OF NAME We, Vishwanath Reddy V S/o C Venkatesh Gowda and Chytanya H B W/o Vishwanath Reddy, residing at No. 163, Railway Station Road, Ancheri, Kengeri, Bengalore-560060, have changed our minor Son's name from Jayanth V (Old Name) to **JAYANTH V GOWDA** (New Name) vide affidavit dated 16-06-2026 before notary Sri. G.B. Turamari, Bengaluru (LAW 315 CLC 2021) on 17.06.2026

CHANGE OF NAME I, Raghavendra S D, residing at #10, 1st Main, Opp KHD Godown, A-9 Peenya 2nd Stage Bengaluru-560058, in my daughter Aditi S R ICSE/10th records my name as mentioned **Raghavendra** instead of **Raghavendra S D** and my wife name as mentioned **S Varalakshmi** instead of **Varalakshmi S** with an order is sworn to before the Pri.Civil Judge and JMFC Kollegala on 20.04.2019

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Muting the messenger

By suspending Telegram services until June 22, a day after the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test Undergraduate (NEET-UG) retest, the Union government is shifting responsibility for the question leakage that led to the cancellation of the May 3 examination. Investigations had led to suspicion that the leaked papers were widely circulated via the messaging application. While the government seems to be pre-empting a repeat of the breach, the National Testing Agency (NTA) remains insular to strong official action. Telegram has also been directed to switch off message-editing features until June 30. These measures amount to blaming the messenger for the message; by ordering them, the government has sought to find a scapegoat for the agency's failure to prevent the leak.

At the centre of the paper leak is a governance issue; the violation is not about technology, or the dissemination and circulation of information. It exposed the agency's inadequate preparedness and operational lapses. The government is yet to initiate any credible action to fix accountability for this serious failure. Top NTA officials have been transferred, but transfers are no punishment for a lapse of this scale. Meanwhile, despite widespread protests calling for the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan over the issue, the Minister remains in office.

The government has invoked Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000, to block the messaging application. Under this section, the prescribed grounds for action include threats to the sovereignty, integrity, and defence of the country, and incitement to the commission of cognisable offences, etc. The action against Telegram can hardly be explained on these grounds. The government has been casual and reactive in its actions against social media platforms, many of them initiated without citing credible grounds. It has a history of indiscriminate bans on internet use. India has the dubious distinction of being ranked among countries with the most internet shutdowns. The Internet Freedom Foundation and other digital rights bodies have strongly criticised the action against Telegram, describing it as unconstitutional and disproportionate. Telegram has approached the court for relief, contending that the suspension undermines constitutional free speech protections. It also said 150 million users of the platform are being punished arbitrarily based on the government's assumptions. Blocking an external messaging application in response to a systemic failing defies logic. The intermediary is a soft target here. Curbs on its functioning also reveal the dispensation's view of free internet expression and its propensity to impose checks on that expression.

The Telegram suspension is a disproportionate response that deflects blame for a systemic lapse

Dog bite surge calls for fresh audit

The 55% surge in dog bite cases across Bengaluru during the first five months of 2026 is a reminder of a serious public health challenge confronting the city. The increase from 11,647 cases during the corresponding period last year to 18,140 this year cannot be dismissed by the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) as merely a consequence of improved reporting. What is equally striking is that pet dogs are responsible for nearly 42% of the total cases. Such a high proportion of pet dog attacks raises uncomfortable questions about irresponsible ownership, inadequate training, and poor socialisation. Thus, civic authorities cannot focus exclusively on stray dogs while ignoring the risks posed by domesticated animals.

The figures also expose the shortcomings of Bengaluru's Animal Birth Control (ABC) programme, which has existed for nearly 25 years and yet has left the city with an estimated stray dog population of almost three lakh. During the brief periods when the programme was implemented rigorously, scientific sterilisation helped stabilise and even reduce stray dog numbers. The 2023 dog census showed that nearly 72% of stray dogs had been sterilised, and the overall population had declined by almost 10% compared with 2019. However, these gains have not been sustained because implementation has been inconsistent, plagued by administrative disruptions, weak monitoring, and poor auditing. The GBA must commission a micro-level study to determine whether these attacks are concentrated in specific neighbourhoods and understand the reasons behind such aggression. Maharashtra's experience offers an important lesson. In Mumbai, which recorded over 30 lakh dog bite cases in six years, authorities found that such incidents clustered in densely populated older wards and peripheral settlements receiving unsterilised dogs from neighbouring areas. Bengaluru too faces migration of stray packs from surrounding village panchayats, making localised mapping indispensable.

The conventional explanation that aggression increases when food becomes scarce does not entirely fit Bengaluru's circumstances. The city has a thriving dog-feeding culture, and the GBA itself allocates funds for organised feeding. This makes it even more imperative to investigate whether garbage management, territorial behaviour, breeding cycles or local population imbalances are driving aggression in particular pockets. The answer lies not in panic but in evidence-based policy. An independent audit of the ABC programme—plugging loopholes like corruption—coupled with neighbourhood-level mapping and continuous sterilisation, is essential. Twenty-five years after its adoption and after crores of rupees having been spent, Bengalureans deserve to know whether their money has been well utilised.

Localised mapping and continuous sterilisation must complement scrutiny of the ABC programme

Without financial autonomy, India's cities will struggle to unlock the capital promised under the Urban Challenge Fund

PUSHPA PATHAK

On April 15, 2026, Manohar Lal Khattar, Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs, launched the operational guidelines for the Urban Challenge Fund (UCF), which proposes central assistance of Rs 1,00,000 crore for five years from 2026-27 to 2030-31, extendable by three years. Of the total amount, Rs 90,000 crore is earmarked for projects, Rs 5,000 crore for project preparation and capacity-building, and Rs 5,000 crore for the Credit Repayment Guarantee Sub-Scheme (CRGSS). The centre will finance up to 25% of the cost of bankable projects, provided at least 50% of the cost is funded from bonds, bank loans, and PPPs. State governments are expected to provide the remaining 25%. The Minister said the UCF was "designed as a catalytic instrument to mobilise nearly four times the investment through market-based financing, making cities financially robust and investment-ready".

This is indeed a paradigm shift in infrastructure financing, which requires limited public funds to be leveraged to raise an equal amount from market borrowings. It is also a big step towards substantially increasing funding for urban development. Significantly, the dedicated funds for project preparation and capacity-building will help tier 2 and tier 3 cities to design bankable projects and access the UCF.

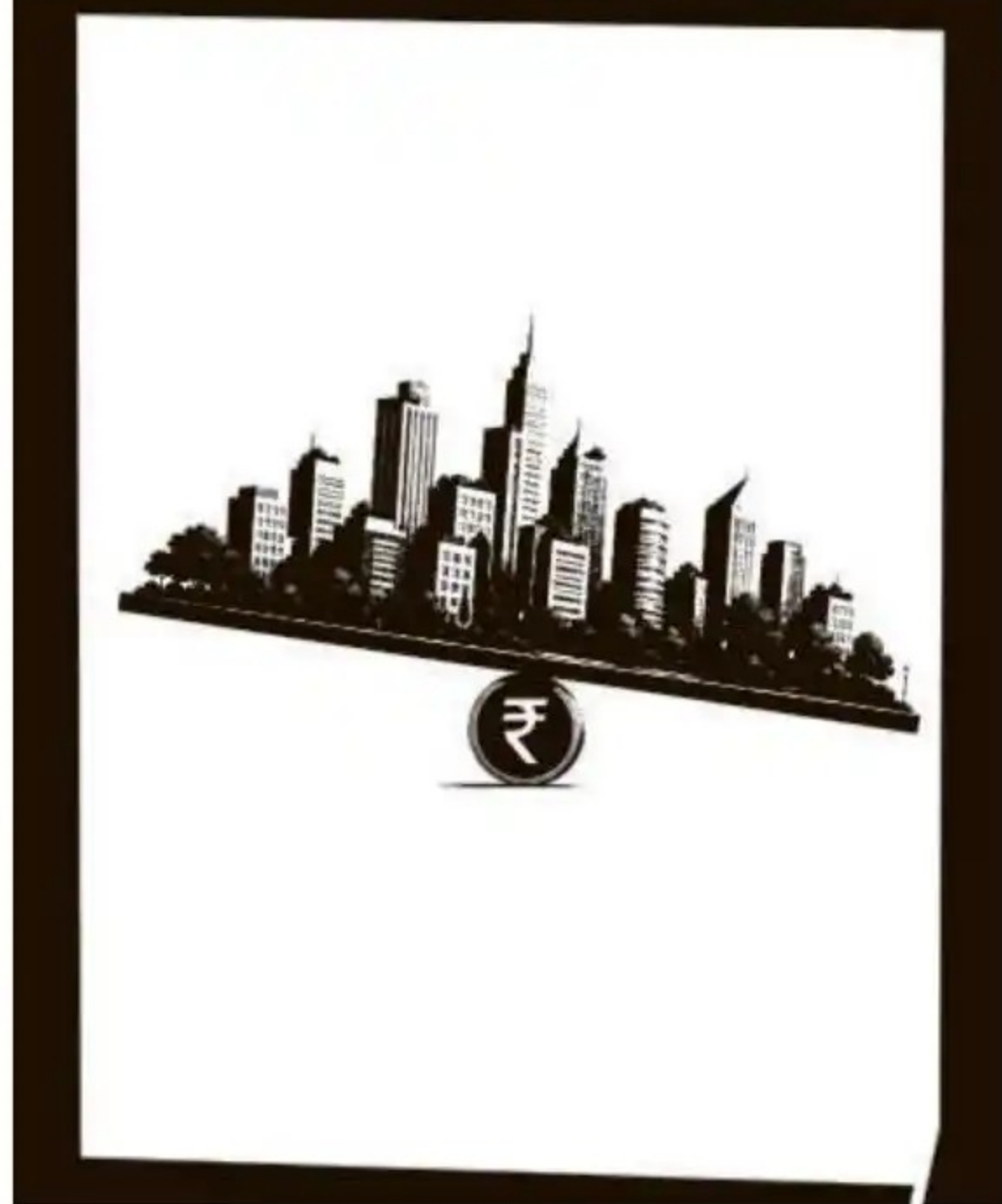
The UCF will fund projects in three critical urban development verticals: Cities as growth hubs, Creative redevelopment of cities, and Water and sanitation. A wide spectrum of projects within these areas is eligible for funding, ranging from digital governance to infrastructure development to flooding and riverfront development. In addition, certain projects are identified for large cities with a population of more than two million, such as the development of convention centres, recreation spaces, state-of-the-art public libraries, and sports infrastructure. This gives cities of all sizes ample choice to tailor projects as per their most pertinent needs. Keeping all these well-intentioned

BURDENED CITIES

UCF rollout meets a grim fiscal reality

points in mind, it is also pertinent to ask how many cities in the country, particularly smaller cities, would be able to benefit from this market-based financing intervention? The quick answer is: very few. The key challenge most cities will face in accessing central financing under the UCF is the current state of limited municipal finance that will not allow Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) to service bonds and loans through their own revenues.

Both the 15th and 16th Finance Commission reports indicate that municipal revenue in India has remained stagnant at around 1% of GDP from 2007-08 to 2023-24. Therefore, despite a favourable policy environment for raising



market funds since 1991, only 26 cities have issued 46 municipal bonds totalling Rs 5,301.64 crore. Many of these cities are metropolises like Bengaluru, Ahmedabad, Chennai, and Hyderabad. Only since 2025, four smaller cities with less than a million population have ventured into the bond market, namely: Bhavnagar, Gandhinagar, Tiruchirappalli, and Tirupati.

Moreover, in many cities, property tax – the main source of municipal finance – accounts for 15-40% of municipal Own Source Revenue (OSR). This is just about adequate for meeting the running expenditure of the ULBs and providing basic services like waste management, street lighting, road repairs, and maintenance of public parks. An increase in the property tax coverage and collection efficiency is often recommended and desirable for improving municipal revenues. However, it will be far from adequate to meet the additional burden of debt service on market borrowings. Hence, the ULBs have to diversify into more innovative sources

of funding to enhance their revenues substantially.

Enhancing municipal revenues

First, large corporate entities and businesses make huge profits due to their locational advantage in cities, but they contribute very little to ULBs beyond a one-time business registration or licence fee and yearly property tax. Levying an annual business tax on large enterprises is justifiable, as several global cities do.

Second, state governments collect huge sums from property sales via stamp duty and registration fees. For example, in 2024-25, Maharashtra's revenue under this head was Rs 58,266 crore, followed by Rs 19,249 crore in Karnataka, and Rs 14,706 crore in Gujarat. Since the bulk of property transactions occur in urban areas, it is reasonable to suggest that a part of these proceeds be passed on to the ULBs. Even if a modest 20-30% share is mandated to be given to the ULBs, it will translate into a significant municipal revenue enhancement across cities.

Third, land – the most lucrative urban local asset – has been taken out of ULB control and handed over to urban development authorities and improvement trusts. These parastatals have massive surplus funds from land sales, while many ULBs are just managing to meet their basic expenditures. For instance, the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) recorded a revenue surplus of Rs 1,371 crore in the financial year 2024-25. Recognising that the ULBs are deprived of land as a major source of municipal revenue, the 13th Finance Commission had recommended that development authorities transfer a part of their profits to the ULBs in their respective areas. Implementing this long-overdue directive urgently can substantially increase the funds available to many ULBs.

Finally, municipal revenue enhancement is a lengthy process, which requires putting in place the required regulatory changes as well as increasing the operational efficiency of the ULBs. While state governments and the ULBs will be making concerted efforts to make progress in this regard, at least a few financially better-off cities are expected to come forward with viable project proposals to claim their funding under the UCF.

(The writer is a senior fellow at the Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

Walking into surprises

Slow travelling often reveals what no itinerary can

RAMESHINDER SINGH SANDHU

During my travels, I adore walking the most. It's the best way to see more, absorb more. One shouldn't rush but rather go slow for savouring what it offers, as William Wordsworth aptly described, 'Going for a walk is an invitation to surprise.'

Some years ago, while wandering in Melbourne, Australia, on a sunny morning, I planted my feet in a large park called the Fitzroy Gardens. Its fresh air and the green lawns dotted with colourful flowers were too inviting. I paused when I spotted a charming Victorian house swarmed by tourists. Known as the 'Cook's Cottage', I learnt that it belonged to the British explorer James Cook and was shipped all the way from England in the 1930s. I bought the ticket and landed myself in the old-world charm and dipped into its history. I felt my dancing elation, because I had

least expected this rare museum from my saunter in the park.

In the US, interstate train journeys are known for their long stops, perfect for those who embrace slow travel. One January, as our train made a two-hour stop in Fort Worth, Texas, I went for a stroll. Minutes away from the station was a bronze sculpture of John F Kennedy, where he had given one of his last public speeches, just a day before his assassination in Dallas on November 22, 1963. Opposite was the Texas Hotel, where he had stayed. The stop became historic, thanks to my feet.

Once on a hot afternoon, I lost my way in Vancouver while finding the waterfront. But it had put me on a path that brought me to the famous laughing sculptures of English Bay. A week later in Seattle, a young man representing a hotel chain stopped me, promising me a nearly \$100 debit card if I attend an hour-long loyalty programme lecture the following day. I did but didn't sign for their exorbitant membership. Yet, I did receive my reward besides a delectable lunch with

strangers. More than a decade ago, as I chose a quiet street in the Swiss town of Lucerne, I encountered Bollywood singer Himesh Reshammiya's song shoot at a café.

Two Augusts ago, as I walked past Oslo's historic Grand Hotel, the team members were serving warm scones and coffee on the street to mark their 150th anniversary. They were the best scones I ever had. Talking to the team members, I learnt the hotel is also home to Alfred Nobel Suite, where Nobel Peace Prize winners stay after their ceremony in nearby City Hall.

The best was five years ago when I was wandering along the lively waterfront restaurants in Cairns, where I came across a familiar face – a senior from school, Ram Sharan. He was taking a food order at a restaurant, which he still owns. He instantly welcomed me in, where I not only enjoyed dinner with him and his wife over rich conversations but also ended up staying with them the night. I cancelled my youth hostel booking. The reconnection was much more than a surprise.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Can the US be trusted? India should read the fine print

I refer to 'US will help if India comes under attack: Trump' (Jun 18). After desisting from offering an apology for taking the lives of three young Indian seafarers in a missile attack, US President Donald Trump has now recalled his friendship with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and has assured that the US would help India in case of any attack, adding a corollary that this promise holds good as long as he is the POTUS and Modi remains the Indian PM. While the bilateral relations between

the two countries have largely been cordial, Trump had unhesitatingly levied a penalty of 25% on Indian goods as a punishment for importing oil from Russia. Trump's flattery of the PM and his praise for India could well be a ruse to ensure the early signing of the Indo-US trade deal, which is yet to be formalised. India should, however, be wary and read the fine print before signing on the dotted line where the deal is concerned.

CV Aravind, Bengaluru

direct consultations with all affected farmers before taking further steps.

Siddhi C Mutagekar, Bengaluru

Promote bio-fertilisers

The severe shortage of DAP and urea across Karnataka, especially in Kalaburagi, ahead of the kharif season, is a cause for anxiety among farmers. Long queues and reports of black marketing highlight our dangerous dependence on global imports. While the state and Centre must work together to ensure timely supply, a long-term solution lies in reducing this vulnerability. The

government should actively promote nano- and bio-fertilisers through awareness campaigns. Deploying agriculture and biotechnology students via funded fellowships for field-level demonstrations, combined with local content creators for effective outreach, can significantly accelerate adoption. This approach will empower youth and protect farmers from future geopolitical shocks.

Anand Mestru, Kalaburagi

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: letters@deccanherald.co.in (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

In 2022, they (BJP) split our party into two. After that, they took away the Aam Aadmi Party's Rajya Sabha MPs, then they broke the TMC, and now they are once again trying to break our party. They engage in corruption and loot. They are bandits.



Anand Dubey, Shiv Sena (UBT) leader

Fool me once, shame on you; fool me twice, shame on me.

English proverb

TO BE PRECISE



IN PERSPECTIVE

Where control weakens reform

Diluted caregiver presence in juvenile homes has reduced rehabilitation to mere confinement

SHRUTI JAIN

What truly reforms a juvenile who has committed a crime? The law may promise rehabilitation, but rehabilitation is not a capsule that can simply be administered with automatic results. It is a slow and continuous process shaped through care, supervision, discipline, and emotional support. A juvenile rehabilitation home can either become a space where a child gradually rediscovers trust and emotional stability, or one where isolation and neglect quietly harden anger into future criminality. The difference often lies not in the legal framework itself, but in how these institutions function.

Consider two rehabilitation setups. In one, the living quarters for juveniles, classrooms, counselling rooms, medical rooms, and the vocational training centres coexist within the same secure space. This setup ensures constant interaction between juveniles and caregivers, who monitor routines, provide emotional support, and gradually pull children away from the psychological stress and social conditioning that often accompany criminal behaviour.

In the other, juveniles remain confined within locked enclosures while classrooms, counselling spaces, vocational training centres, and medical facilities exist outside that space, accessed only occasionally. Here, juveniles are left to themselves for long stretches, with little supervision or meaningful engagement. The result is isolation, resentment, and reinforcement of negative tendencies.

These are not hypothetical concerns. They reflect the lived reality inside several child care institutions across India today. More importantly, the latter setup is not an accidental administrative failure. It is the direct consequence of subtle but significant changes introduced through the Juvenile Justice Model Rules, 2016, which replaced the earlier 2007 framework. The changes appear technical on the surface, but their consequences have been detrimental.

The earlier framework implicitly ensured continuous adult presence within institutions. The revised Rules diluted this obligation by removing the requirement that in-charges remain within the premises. What appears to be a harmless administrative relaxation has turned many rehabilitation homes into spaces resembling prisons.

Rehabilitation, by its very nature, requires sustained human engagement. Yet in many institutions, juveniles spend hours replaying perceived injustices, nurturing resentment against the system, and internalising the belief that their stay is merely a temporary interruption before returning to the same conduct outside.

Under the 2007 Rules, the superintendent was required to reside within the institution or in quarters nearby, and could avoid doing so only for "legitimate reasons" with prior permission from the Director of Child Protection. In such cases, another senior staff member was required to stay within the premises. The 2016 Rules replaced "legitimate reasons" with the vaguer "valid reasons" and removed the requirement of seeking permission. The consequence is predictable. The institutional head is no longer bound to remain physically present within the rehabilitation space.

The earlier Rules also required institutions to maintain full-time counsellors, educators, vocational instructors, caretakers, house fathers, and house mothers. This "full-time" qualifier for the caregivers went missing under the replaced rules.

Between custody and care

The 2016 framework reflects a different philosophy altogether. The emphasis shifts from care to control. The Rules introduced security personnel trained to manage violence, prevent escape, conduct surveillance, and handle crises. In practice, it is often these security staff members who interact with juveniles most frequently, while counsellors and educators visit only once or twice a week. As a result, the child increasingly encounters authority in the form of surveillance and restraint rather than care and mentorship.

The problem deepens at the implementation stage. Rehabilitation requires financial commitment from the state as well as the Centre. Unsurprisingly, cost-cutting becomes the first compromise. Staffing is outsourced to private agencies, which frequently appoint personnel far below sanctioned strength and often with inadequate qualifications. Even the remuneration prescribed under the Mission Vatsalya guidelines remains too poor to attract and retain skilled professionals.

The consequences are visible in the daily functioning of these institutions. A juvenile institution consists of three separate units – observation homes, place of safety, and special homes – each requiring independent staff strength. Yet because appointments are made such that they can hardly sustain one unit, the same staff is informally shared across all three, moving from one crisis to another instead of providing continuous engagement. The juveniles, therefore, remain without full-time mentorship for substantial periods.

Structural inequalities that push children towards crime remain largely unaddressed, while rehabilitation systems meant to reform them continue to weaken. A juvenile justice system built on isolation and control cannot deliver reform. True rehabilitation requires healing, restoration, and reintegration, not mere confinement behind locked doors.

(The writer is a journalist currently pursuing her LL.M at National Law University, Delhi)

‘The Indian democracy can sustain only as a multi-party democracy’

The Congress has released Rahul Gandhi’s intervention during the recent I.N.D.I.A. bloc meeting, where he places his party as a pivot of the opposition. Dipankar Bhattacharya, who has been part of the bloc since its first meeting in Patna, speaks about the Opposition’s future course. Excerpts:

● **What is your response to the issues that Rahul Gandhi raised in his speech at the I.N.D.I.A. bloc meeting?**
He mentioned specific issues such as the NEET paper leak, but the main thing he talked about was the institutional capture by the BJP. His emphasis was on building resistance to this assault on democracy. This is well taken, but I have my own observations as to how to make it more sustainable, powerful and collective. He talked about the Congress during the freedom movement. Subsequently, post-independence, Congress became a ruling party, and over the years Rahul Gandhi himself has said on so many occasions that the Congress has lost many of its moorings. For him, I think

Dipankar Bhattacharya, *CPI(ML) L General Secretary, in conversation with Shemin Joy*



there is a dual task: to energeise the Congress and to build a powerful, vibrant coalition. They are interrelated but different tasks.

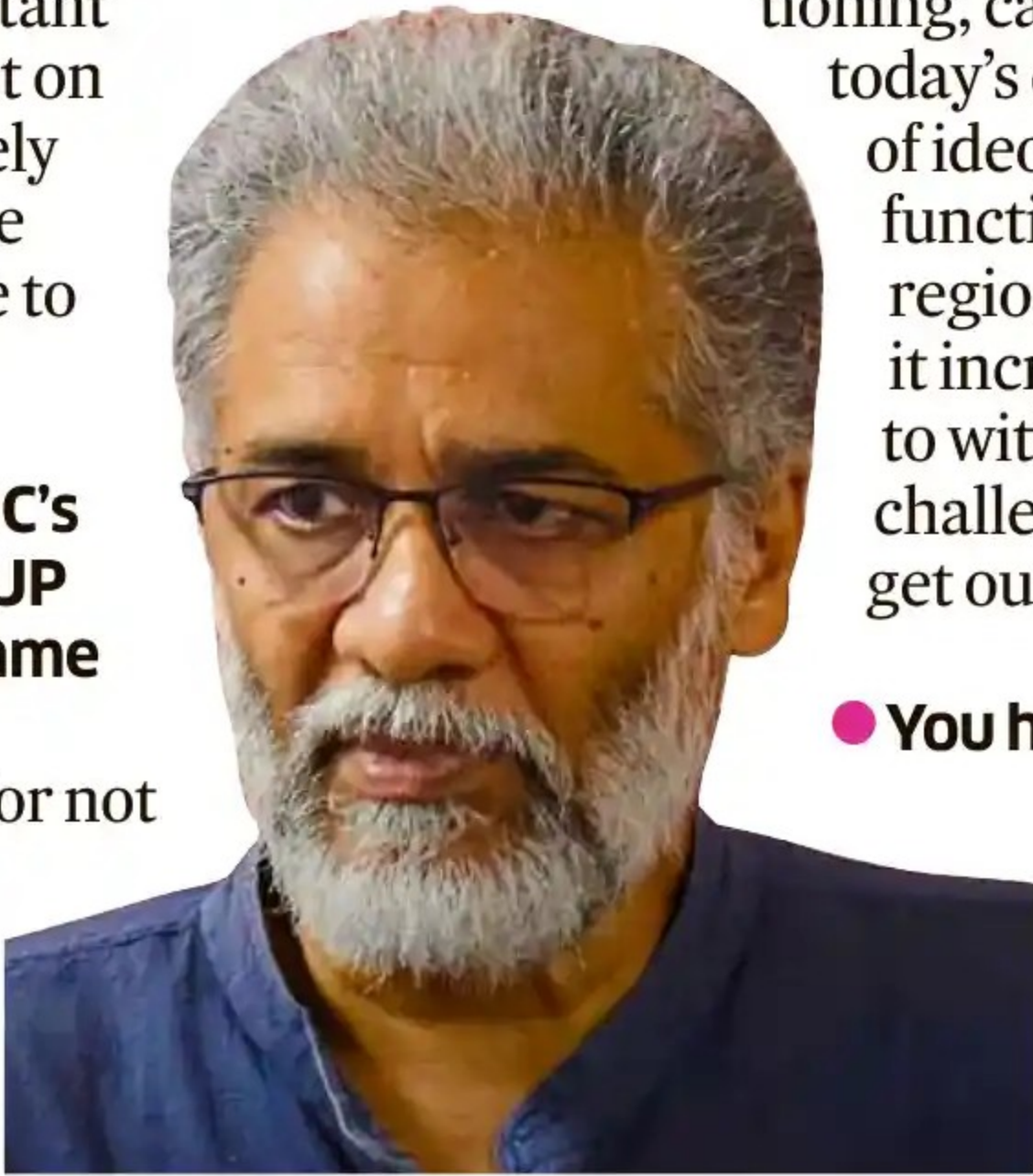
● **Do you think Rahul Gandhi sees allies in just supporting roles?**
Let us be fair to the Congress. It has

the widest national footprint. It is definitely the biggest party in the bloc, and Rahul Gandhi, as the leader of the Opposition, definitely has a bigger role to play. When we are building a coalition, every party needs the other. That is why I say that we need something like I.N.D.I.A. plus. The existing coalition should be consolidated, and our outreach expanded. We should reach out to all ongoing struggles to be able to tap into people’s energy. So it should not be just the Congress and a few other parties. It should be a broader coalition.

● **The BJP has several ex-Congress leaders, and a Congress chief minister is eulogising Hitler when Rahul Gandhi places Congress as a primary force in the anti-BJP camp. How will it work?**
I have publicly commented that Congress has to re-energiese and reposition itself against the BJP-RSS, and on all counts, it is to be an ideological resistance. Now, their Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is invoking Hitler as

a source of inspiration. Only a few months ago, the current Karnataka Chief Minister D K Shivakumar sang the RSS anthem in the Assembly. The Congress should be alarmed. Every party has to guard its own ideological position and organisation. Trinamool Congress was a powerful party until recently. For 15 years, it ruled West Bengal. It even won the 2024 Lok Sabha elections in West Bengal without I.N.D.I.A. bloc support. Now it is imploding. It is important that parties do not rest on their laurels and merely invoke the past but live in the present and rise to the occasion.

● **You refer to the TMC’s implosion. Isn’t the BJP playing a different game altogether?**
The BJP is definitely for not just ‘One Nation, One Election’ but also ‘One Party State’. They want



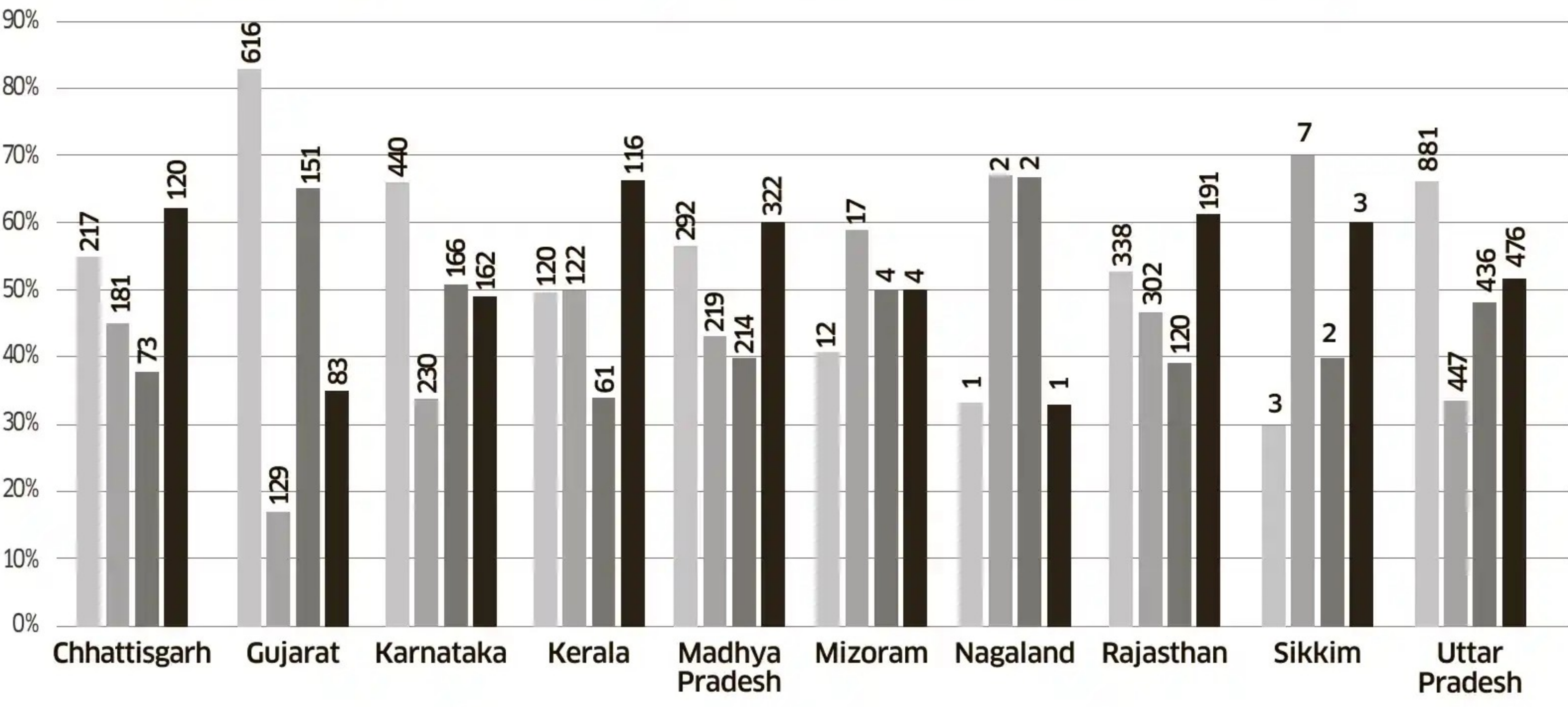
India to have absolute, unchallenged, and complete domination of the BJP. This is why the BJP cannot afford to have a powerful opposition. The I.N.D.I.A. bloc is a powerful opposition in Parliament. Likewise in West Bengal, they have made sure that around 60 MLAs break away. This also teaches us that a party built around individual leaders and their families, without concrete ideology, internal organisational democracy and collective functioning, cannot stand up to today’s challenge. In terms of ideology, organisational functioning and cohesion, regional parties will find it increasingly difficult to withstand the BJP’s challenge. So we need to get our act together.

● **You have been arguing that the I.N.D.I.A. bloc should be united but at the same time diverse too.**

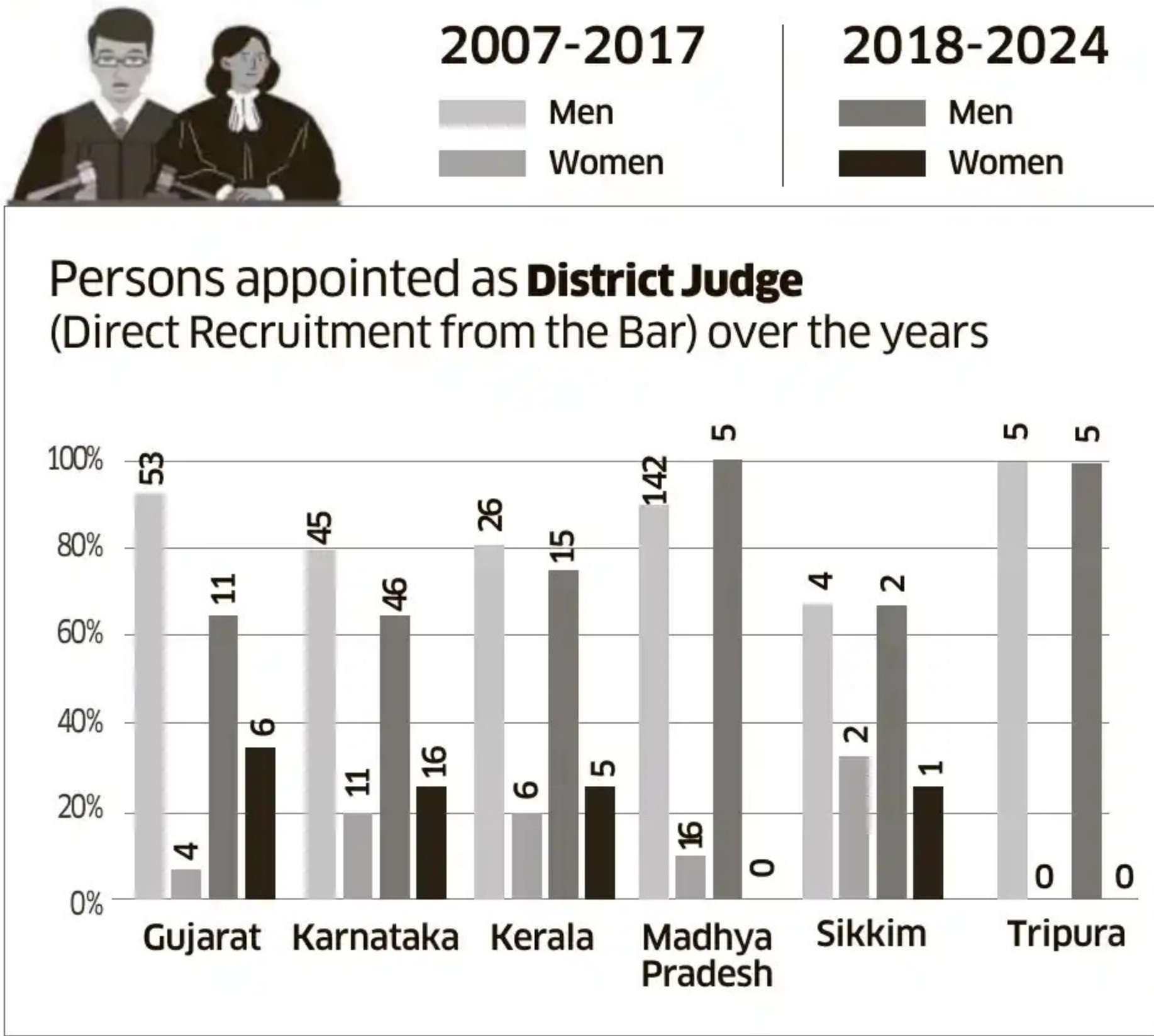
One way of looking at the I.N.D.I.A. bloc is that it is just a collection of parties. But I see a pattern in it. That is why I am saying if Rahul Gandhi is going back to the freedom movement (to place the Congress), I will also go back to the freedom movement. The freedom movement and the Congress party are not coterminous. Congress was the leading platform of the freedom movement, but there were other trends too — several ideologies working together at times and working separately at other times. For me, the I.N.D.I.A. bloc is not just a collection of a few parties. It is also the coming together and the cooperation among various ideologies, which go back to the freedom movement. Indian democracy can sustain only as a multi-party democracy. The I.N.D.I.A. bloc already marks an ideological regrouping of all the ideologies which actually had shaped India’s freedom movement and led it to a victory. So, we have to re-invoke that ideological cooperation and collaboration among our range of ideologies in today’s context.

Selective Scaling: Persistent Gaps in Gender Diversity in the District Judiciary

Persons appointed as Civil Judge (Junior Division) over the years, by gender



The bars represent the percentage (share) of men and women appointed in 2007-2017 (Round 1) and 2018-2024 (Round 2), out of the total appointees in each of these time periods. The numbers above each bar represent the number of men and women appointed in the respective periods.



The data from district courts shows that while women are entering judicial services in increasing numbers, their representation decreases sharply in senior positions

More women join the Bench, but the path to the top remains narrow

SHRUTHI NAIK AND PRIYAMVADHA SHIVAJI

This month, senior advocate V Mohana became the 12th woman to be appointed to the Supreme Court of India and only the second woman to have been appointed directly from the Supreme Court Bar. While the appointment of another woman judge at the highest court in the country is worth celebrating, there is still a long way to go for ensuring adequate representation of women in the Indian judiciary.

Diversity on the Bench is often viewed from the perspective of women in the higher judiciary, i.e., the high courts and Supreme Court. These judges may be appointed directly or through elevations from the district judiciary. However, despite approximately 30% of judges in the high courts being elevated, not much attention is paid to diversity in the district judiciary, which provides the pool of eligible candidates. Currently, about 38% of judges in the district judiciary are women, an increase from 28% in 2018.

In an effort to understand changes in diversity over the years, the Justice, Access and Lowering Delays in India (JALDI) initiative at the Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy collates and tracks changes in gender diversity in the district judiciary. The dataset contains gender-disaggregated data related to appointments to the posts of Civil Judge (Junior Division) and District Judge (Direct Recruitment from the Bar) from 2007 to 2024, obtained through two rounds of data collection.

As data is obtained through right-to-in-

formation applications filed with the judiciary, it is also limited to information made available for specific states and time periods.

Nevertheless, the available data reveals notable trends. There has been a steady increase in the percentage of women appointed to the post of civil judge (junior division) in particular, from 2007 to 2024. In the 10 states for which responses were made available for both rounds of data collection (Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Nagaland, Rajasthan, Sikkim and Uttar Pradesh), we note that with the exception of Mizoram, Nagaland, and Sikkim, a higher percentage of women have been appointed during 2018-2024 as opposed to 2007-2017. The highest increase occurred in Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh, which saw an increase of 18 percentage points in the share of women appointed during 2018-2024 compared to 2007-2017.

The climb gets steeper

However, such a trend does not hold true in appointments as district judges. District judges may be appointed via direct recruitment or promotions. Only 25% of appointments to the post are filled by direct recruitment, with the majority filled through promotions or limited competitive examinations for the post of civil judge (senior division). Although such a system provides an opportunity to ensure gender representation through direct recruitments, it was found that the average percentage of women appointed as district judges often remains below 30% in the six states for which responses were

made available for both rounds of data collection (Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Sikkim, and Tripura). Gujarat saw the highest increase, from 7% of appointees in 2007-2017 being women to 35% in 2018-2024; Karnataka and Kerala also saw a slight increase in the share of women appointees from 2018-2024 as opposed to 2007-2017.

Madhya Pradesh made the highest number of appointments to the post of district judge in the dataset, appointing a total of 163 judges; however, a closer look at the data reveals that only 10% of its appointments (16 out of 163) were women, with some recruitment cycles appointing no women.

For states where the dataset covers more than two consecutive cycles of recruitment, we found that nine states did not hire any women as district judges through direct recruitments for two or more consecutive cycles: Assam (2021, 2022), Gujarat (2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015), Haryana (2023, 2024), Himachal Pradesh (2019, 2020, 2023), Kerala (2010, 2012), Madhya Pradesh (2008, 2009, 2015, 2016, 2018, 2021), Punjab (2019, 2023, 2024), Rajasthan (2018, 2020), and Tripura (2011, 2014, 2016, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2024).

In comparison, for appointments as civil judge (junior division), all states in our dataset continually ensured women were appointed, with the exception of Manipur, which did not appoint women in two consecutive cycles (2013, 2014). Notably, no transgender candidates have been appointed in this time period to either of these posts. However, in a first, the Karnataka judiciary made

history by appointing two transgender persons to the post of civil judge in February.

The high court gap

The disparity in the appointment of women to senior positions in the district judiciary is therefore also reflected in the high courts, where women make up only 14% of the working judge strength. What may be the reason behind such a reduction in gender diversity in high courts?

One reason often posited is that the number of women entering the district judicial services is on the rise, and hence it is likely that we will see more women promoted to higher positions in the future. This, however, remains to be seen.

Previous studies have linked the under-representation of women in the legal profession to opaque collegium resolutions, deep-rooted patriarchy on and off the Bench, a lack of inclusive infrastructure, and a lack of gender-insensitive amenities, which lead to the marginalisation of women both at the time of entry and continued performance within the system.

Representation is not merely a question of entry into the profession but also progression within it.

Beyond providing reservations for women in the judiciary, there is a need for sustained efforts to monitor and improve diversity across the judicial system and to ensure a level playing field for women in the legal profession.

(The writers are Senior Resident Fellows of the JALDI initiative at the Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy)

MSMEs need more than digital access

SAMIRA MATHUR

I was scared to report a fraudulent transaction on Facebook Marketplace, and, when I did, they only blocked the account. I had to file a separate police complaint. The police recovered the money, but they also took a cut from it,’ reported a small seller in Punjab who was new to selling online. This is one of many incidents reflecting the challenges small businesses face while going digital.

The use of e-commerce helps formalise businesses by giving them access to a larger consumer base. It has also been associated with improved market performance and greater innovation.

Micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) account for about 31% of India’s GDP and are projected to drive 50% of e-commerce growth by 2030, according to a McKinsey report. Online marketplaces have evolved significantly, but their governance remains stuck in the pre-Covid era. Without reforms, MSMEs will struggle to thrive in these ecosystems.

The Union Budget 2026-2027 renews its focus on access to capital for MSMEs, but the benefits of digitalisation can be realised only if policy addresses the full picture: platform accountability, incentives and consumer welfare. How do sellers signal quality to consumers? What kinds of MSMEs succeed on these platforms?

As the example above illustrated, it is easy for smaller sellers to lose trust in the platform. They face a dual threat from larger organised firms’ and platforms’ in-house products, reducing visibility and sales. Sellers with fewer than 10 employees often encounter high return rates for damaged products, fraudulent transactions and account theft. Inadequate platform support and poor awareness of reporting mechanisms can drive them off platforms altogether. Hidden operational costs, including taxes and platform fees, further constrain growth, especially for low-margin sellers. Given their limited business expertise, many also struggle with language barriers and lack access to performance and customer data.

Platforms compound these problems through structural difference. Behemoths such as Amazon and Flipkart wield disproportionate market power and may find it cheaper to pay fines than strengthen compliance. The result is chronically deprioritised MSME support. Policy enforcement must balance competing interests while protecting consumer welfare.

Research by Lance Garcia at the Harvard Kennedy School indicates that consumers value product quality and trustworthiness across product categories. Reviews and ratings act as proxies of quality, especially for unbranded products sold by small businesses. In an environment where consumers rely on platforms to infer product quality, MSMEs find it difficult to build a unique value proposition. Platform-issued certifications and badges can improve customer confidence, but existing systems are inconsistent and do not comprehensively capture quality.

Standardising e-commerce certifications and badges at both store and product levels could help sellers build credibility. Existing reforms such as Walmart Vriddhi and the TEAM Scheme focus on mass onboarding, but what happens afterwards? Tracking sellers over one to three years and identifying who survives and who drops out would give policymakers the data needed to design more effective support programmes.

“We get limited information about our performance on the platform, based on our relationship with the Amazon account manager,” another small seller told us. Most sellers lose contact with account managers a few months after joining e-commerce platforms. A part of the problem can be resolved by broadening access to AI-powered tools to guide sellers through quick queries related to dispute resolution, filing complaints on the platform and obtaining information on market trends. Even as e-commerce has become more inclusive with the launch of government-led marketplaces like GeM, firms still struggle to navigate this world. As a result, adoption remains low.

Countries like Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia have rewritten the rules of e-commerce to broaden the reach of SMEs. Why does success still remain elusive for Indian MSMEs? The problem is unique owing to insufficient platform incentive, limited digital literacy of small businesses and lack of understanding of sellers’ struggles by policymakers. Enhancing access to finance is not enough. True digital inclusion relies on multi-stakeholder dialogue. Without intervention, the promise of digital commerce risks remaining inaccessible to the very micro and small enterprises it should empower most.

(The writer is a graduate of the Harvard Kennedy School, specialising in economic and tech policy)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: JUNE 1976

Uranium find in Chikmagalur

Bangalore, June 18. Presence of uranium had been located in two villages of Chikmagalur District, Mr. Sukhdev Prasad, Union Deputy Minister for Steel and Mines, told newsmen here yesterday. The Atomic Energy Department had undertaken a thorough exploration of the area in Kalasapura and Devagondanahalli villages. At present, a mine near Tatanagar in West Bengal was the only one producing uranium. The Geological Survey of India had also located a two-metre wide zone of sulphide with one to two per cent of copper at Aladahalli in Tiptur Taluk in Tumkur District.

25 YEARS AGO: JUNE 2001

13 killed as Imphal burns

Imphal, June 18 (PTI) Thirteen people were killed and more than 50 injured today when police opened fire on violent mobs resenting expansion of Nagaland ceasefire to Manipur went on the rampage here torching the State Assembly and Chief Minister’s secretariats forcing the authorities to clamp indefinite curfew in three districts of the State. However, unofficial sources have put the death toll at 32. The Centre rushed additional paramilitary forces to the State and Home Minister L K Advani told reporters that the situation in the State was “tense but under control.”

In times defined by excesses and exhibitionism, glitz and glamour, technology and commerce come together to indulge every desire and caprice with abundant choice. Our homes are full of gadgets that are meant to ease the drudgery of daily living but ironically leave little time for ourselves, let alone others. The workplaces that welcomed their clientele with a smile and anticipation are full of individuals lost in their systems and devices and barely have time for a weary nod. A sense of ennui, emotional lethargy and a pervasive sense of lack when we have it all.

In such a situation we turn for a refreshing change to the age of the

Stoics, the ancient Greek and Roman philosophers and the virtues they preached. Stoicism is the ancient Hellenistic philosophy that offers lessons in self-mastery and resilience. It teaches that while you cannot control events that happen to you, you have absolute control over your judgment and responses. Stoicism is a movement towards life reduced to essentials, stripped of redundancies. It is a highly evolved mind that understands that it is better to need less than to want to have more. We need homes, not mansions; we



need uncluttered drawing rooms with gleaming surfaces without expensive artefacts. We need the green outdoors, not manicured gardens with keep-off-the-grass signs.

For the Stoic philosophers, virtue is sufficient for happiness. Thus, a sage would be emotionally resilient to misfortune and would therefore be considered truly free. Diogenes, the Greek Stoic philosopher who gave rise to the school of cynicism, emphasised rejection of superficial desires of power, possession and even reputation in favour of a life of honesty, freedom and asceticism.

True freedom comes not from ruling over others but from needing nothing at all. He challenged societal norms by living in a barrel and wandering in public spaces with a lighted lantern and proclaimed himself “a citizen of the world”. In a memorable encounter with Alexander the Great, who asked him what he could give him, Diogenes’ terse reply was, “Yes, stand a little out of my sun.” Alexander, marvelling at him, famously told his courtiers, ‘But verily if I were not Alexander, I would be Diogenes.’ While it is not necessary to become ascetics, let there be moderation in our hectic lifestyles, a stepping back that can make us happier.

Telegram is ‘Frankenstein’: Govt justifies ban order

Telegram, From Page 1

Senior advocate Dhruv Mehta, appearing for Telegram, argued the blocking under Rule 9 of the IT Rules lacked proper application of mind, adding that the designated officer had merely “parroted” the allegations without independent satisfaction, which was contrary to principles laid down by the apex court.

He said the government could have ordered removal of specific content instead of imposing a blanket ban.

The bench, however, questioned Telegram on its obligations under Section 79 of the IT Act and asked whether its architecture allowed for less restrictive measures like real-time monitoring to prevent viral spread of leaked papers.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the Union government, highlighted Telegram’s unique architecture, including its bot infrastructure, that enables bulk dissemination of content with minimal human oversight.

“I will just give an example. In Telegram, one account user can create 40 bots. While in case of WhatsApp, it’s one bot per user. They have multiplicity-encour-

aging architecture and then the bots can further multiply,” he said.

“Bots are machines; they can further multiply. As per the report, Telegram can offer bot infrastructure which can disseminate information in bulk. This feature is unique as it permits creation of sophisticated networks with minimal human oversight,” the solicitor general said.

“This platform, because of its unique architecture, I would say, is a Frankenstein,” he said.

He pointed out that blocked bots could easily mirror channels and re-emerge, making enforcement difficult.

He also referred to features like concealed phone numbers and VPN support that hinder investigations.

The law officer submitted that the temporary, event-specific restriction was a proportionate and least restrictive measure, especially given the scale of the examination involving 22 lakh students.

He also alleged that reports indicated that Telegram is frequently used for terrorist activities and that law enforcement agencies face challenges due to this architectural design in various jurisdictions.

He flagged the concerns over public order and potential unrest if the exam is affected by paper leak.

Telegram maintained that it had proactively taken down over 900 links related to NEET leaks using AI and machine-learning tools.

It asserted that the leaked paper content was not authentic and that the ban was excessive, affecting millions of legitimate users, including students and educators.

Attorney General R Venkataramani, also appearing for the Centre, described Telegram’s architecture as problematic, arguing that a platform unable to discharge its duties effectively could not strongly invoke the principle of proportionality.

He said the restrictive order “is complete and applies its mind”.

While reserving the verdict, the judge asked the counsel for both parties to file their written submissions, if any, by 7 pm during the day.

In a post on X, Telegram CEO Pavel Durov had criticised the ban, saying the ban punishes ordinary users and has not stopped leaks, which have shifted to other platforms.

Midday meal strictly linked to students’ attendance

Facial recognition-based attendance thrice a day must

BENGALURU, DHNS

Serving food, milk, eggs, and bananas under the Midday Meal scheme is now strictly linked to students’ attendance from this academic year.

Teachers have to capture facial recognition-based attendance at least thrice a day to ensure students are present, participating, and consuming the food served under the scheme.

This is to prevent misappropriation and also the fake entry of students. The Department of School Education has warned of action against teachers and headmasters of the schools if fake numbers are entered.

“It will be considered as



The Department of School Education has made it mandatory for teachers to enter data of students who have consumed milk, eggs, bananas, and the midday meal on the Students Achievement Tracking System (SATS) on the same day. AI IMAGE

a financial irregularity,” said the department in a circular.

As directed by the department, teachers have to capture Facial recognition-based attendance of students twice in the morning and once in the afternoon. The department even opined that getting an APAAR (Automated Permanent Academic Account

Parents’ consent must to serve eggs to children

The Department of School Education has also made it mandatory to obtain consent from parents whose children wish to consume eggs, and that consent letter should not be changed later.

This follows a few incidents reported last year where some of the School Development and Monitoring Committees (SDMCs) passed a resolution not to serve eggs for children on select days. This was revealed during the surprise checks by the Azim Premji Foundation, which has donated Rs 1,500 crore to provide eggs for school children as part of the MDM for a period of three years.

Previous School Education Minister Madhu Bangarappa, while replying to a query by one of the BJP MLCs in the Legislative Council, had announced that consent letters from the parents would be received during the admission process about their priority between eggs or bananas.

During the visit to 762 schools by the Azim Premji Foundation team, 568 schools were found not to be distributing eggs properly. Following the report from the foundation, the department had issued notices to SDMCs.

The department stated, “Entering students’ data the next day will be considered as irregularity and teachers must enter the details of students about the consumption of food, milk, eggs and bananas served on the same day.”



GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

KARNATAKA GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT

Revenue Department, M. S. Building, Bengaluru

NO: E- RD189 GRC 2025

Date: 12.06.2026

NOTIFICATION

Whereas, upon considering the report of the Police Inspector, White Field Police Station, Bengaluru City and after due investigation of the complaints of depositors it has come to the notice of the Government, that the Dream Adventures Services, Bengaluru is involved in fraudulent transactions by clandestinely and illegally collecting deposits or money from the general public and thereafter have failed to return the same either after maturity or on demand made by the depositors or complainants with promised interest and other assured benefits and thereby have failed to render the services promised to them.

And whereas, it has further come to the notice of the Government that Dream Adventures Services, Bengaluru and people associating with them have been acquiring lands, movable and immovable properties, cash and others from and out of the deposits or money so collected, from the depositors or complainants and thereby deviating from the intended purposes of accepting the deposits or money.

And whereas, the Government has reason to believe that the actions of Dream Adventures Services, Bengaluru and people associating with them are acting in and detrimental to the interest of the depositors or complainants whose intention was to defraud the innocent depositors, and it has become necessary to protect the interest of the depositors of the Dream Adventures Services, Bengaluru.

And whereas, now the Government after considering the report of the Police Inspector, White Field Police Station, Bengaluru City and Investigation officer for Dream Adventures Services, Bengaluru Fraudulent case and satisfying itself about the urgent need to protect the interest of the depositors and in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of Section (3) of the Karnataka Protection of interest of Depositors in Financial Establishment Act, 2004 (Karnataka Act 30 of 2005) hereby makes the following order, namely:

“ORDER”

Now therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of Section (3) of the Karnataka Protection of interest of Depositors in Financial Establishment Act, 2004 (Karnataka Act 30 of 2005), the Government under the circumstances stated above having satisfied that in order to protect the interest of depositors it is necessary to attach the movable and immovable properties believed to belong to Dream Adventures Services, Bengaluru.

Therefore, the Government hereby attaches the movable properties as specified in the Annexure to this order believed to have been acquired by the Dream Adventures Services, Bengaluru either in its own name or in the name of any other person from and out of the deposits collected by the Dream Adventures Services Bengaluru, and where it transpires that such money or such other properties of the said financial establishment, or the personal assets of the promoters, partners, directors, managers or members or any other person of the said financial establishment is not sufficient for the repayment of the deposits or interest or such other assured benefits to the depositors.

Note: All the aforesaid movable properties from the date of publication of this order in the Official Gazette, shall forth with vest with the Competent Authority, who has been appointed by the Government, pending further orders from the Special Court.

By Order and in the name of the Governor of Karnataka
Sd/-
(Anwar Basha)
Deputy Secretary to Government,
Revenue Department (Services-1,
SSLR & Special Cell)

ANNEXURE

Sl. No	Name and Address of Account holder	Name of the Bank and its Branch	Account Number	Lien mark/freeze	Amount Available (in Rs)
1	Dream Adventures Services, NO 7, 3RD FLOOR WHITE FIELD MAIN ROAD, SIGMA SOFT TECH PARK, VARTHUR HOBLI, Bangalore-560066	INDIAN OVERSEAS BANK	17702000000353	Lien	179/-
2	Farooq KM S/o Mohiyiddin, R/o Flat No.709, Vishwas sahara Heights, Next to Forum Fiza Mall, Pandeshwar, Mangalore, Dakshina Kannada-575001.	AXIS BANK	923010003202301	Lien	20,126/-
3	Haleema Zeeyaana W/o Farooq M, R/o Flat No.709, Vishwas Sahara Heights, Next to Forum Fiza Mall, Pandeshwar, Mangalore, Dakshina Kannada-575001.	UNION BANK	520101258220577	Lien	12,856/-
4	Haleema Zeeyaana W/o Farooq M, R/o Flat No.709, Vishwas Sahara Heights, Next to Forum Fiza Mall, Pandeshwar, Mangalore, Dakshina Kannada-575001	ICICI BANK	001401537385	Lien	21,000/-
5	Tasleem Taj D/o Shaik Ilyas Pasha, No.348 Adithya nagar, MS playa Circle Bangalore north Vidyananyapura, Bangalore North, Bengaluru-560097	YES BANK	113991800028352	Lien	2,446/-
6	Tasleem Taj D/o Shaik Ilyas Pasha, No.348 Adithya nagar, MS playa Circle Bangalore north Vidyananyapura, Bangalore North, Bengaluru-560097	KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK	715068364	Lien	11,833/-
7	Arun Kumar T S/o Thirupataiah N, No.78, 11th a Cross, Near Standford Public School, Vidyananyapura, Vinayaka Nagara, Bangalore-560097	AXIS BANK	917010043051016	Lien	503/-
8	Abdul Azeez S/o Shaik Fazlullah, No.6 D No 2308, 8th Cross Kushal Nagar, Arabic College AMC Road KG Halli, Bangalore North, Bangalore-560045	AXIS BANK	917010039578662	Lien	26,784/-
9	Abdul Samad S/o U.B Ibrahim, No.22-90-82, Ullala Bai, Near Jeelani Juma Masjid, Ullala, Mangaluru, Dakshin Kannada	Federal Bank	20130200004506	Lien	12,33,622/-
10	Farzana W/o Sharafuddin, No 19-85/1 Masthi Katte Ullal Mangalore, Dakshina Kannada	BANK OF BARODA	71080100009358	Lien	19,737/-
11	Sriram Ganigaram No 1-1-379/102/A Srt 116, Street No.04 Jawaharnagar, Musheerabad, Hyderabad, Telangana	ICICI BANK	04101516452	Lien	9,729/-
Total					Rs. 13,58,815/-

Sd/-
(Anwar Basha)
Deputy Secretary to Government
Revenue Department (Services-1,
SSLR & Special Cell)

DIPR/CP/JA/1238/2026-27

Youth dies by suicide after losing money in IPL betting

GUBBI (TUMAKURU DISTRICT), DHNS: A 25-year-old youth died by suicide after allegedly losing a large sum of money in IPL betting. Narayanaswamy of Ankalkoppa village under CS Pura hobli of Gubbi taluk was found hanging from a tree near his house on Thursday.

Narayanaswamy was working as a courier agent. He had landed into financial trouble after losing huge sums of money in the betting in the recently concluded IPL T20 tournament.

Unable to cope with the pressure by the lenders, Narayanaswamy, the sole breadwinner of the family, took the drastic step, the police said.

The CS Pura police have registered a case.

MLC polls: Cong smirks as...

MLC polls, from Page 1

Soon after the results, jubilant CM D K Shivakumar and Congress general secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala termed the cross-votes a “stamp of approval” for the government’s guarantees and policies.

Of the seven seats, Congress could easily win four and the BJP two. After the Congress fielded Vinay Karthik as the seventh man in the fray, the JD(S) forced an election by nominating Govinda Raju as the eighth candidate.

This turned the election into a prestige battle between Shivakumar and Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy. The result showcased Shivakumar’s superior political management.

Interestingly, Karthik, who was expected to reach the winning quota of 28 through second-preference votes, secured 32 first-preference votes. The BJP had allotted 30 votes each to its candidates, two more than the quota of 28. While Lingaraj Patil got 27 votes, Raghu Kautilya secured 29 after one BJP ballot was declared invalid.

Cross-voting put BJP’s Patil in a precarious position. He secured only 27 first-preference votes, three short of the allocation, and eventually won with second-preference votes. Raju got only 14 votes.

Surjewala said the Congress, with 135 MLAs, was supported by the Sarvodaya Karnataka Party and two Independents, besides receiving 11 additional votes. “The BJP, with 64 legislators, ended up polling only 56 first-preference votes and one invalid vote. JD(S), with 18 members, got only 14 votes,” he said.

Shivakumar said he was “surprised” by the overwhelming support even from the rival party legislators to his government and said it was a vote in favour of “people’s welfare”.

Jumbo enters school premises, task force chases it away

HASSAN, DHNS: The students of Government High School at Udevara in Sakleshpur taluk were in awe after a huge wild jumbo, “Bheema”, strayed into school premises on Wednesday.

There was excitement and fear among the students, who for a brief period forgot that they were in the school and stood watching the pachyderm which roamed on the premises.

However, the Elephant Task Force (ETF) personnel, who were following the wild jumbo, alerted the people about the movement of “Bheema” and asked them to be cautious.

The ETF personnel took all precautionary measures as the jumbo entered the school premises and were successful in driving it away. The wild jumbo is frequently spotted roaming



Students catch a glimpse of wild elephant “Bheema” which strayed into the premises of government high school at Udevara in Sakleshpur taluk, Hassan district. DH PHOTO

in villages in Sakleshpur, Alur, Belur taluks. It has not attacked anyone in the recent past and sometimes exhibits the behaviour of a tamed elephant. Hence, the villagers are used to the movement of “Bheema” and do not panic upon sighting him.

Iran peace deal: India to get macroeconomic relief

Iran, from Page 1

Brent crude futures dropped by 2.06% to \$77.91 a barrel, while US West Texas Intermediate crude declined by 2.34% to \$74.99 a barrel.

International Energy Agency (IEA) chief Fatih Birol welcomed the US-Iran deal and called for unconditional reopening of the Strait of Hormuz.

The rupee ended higher against the US dollar for the fifth consecutive session on Thursday, logging its longest winning streak in a year, as lenders and exports cut dollar positions aggressively. The rupee ended at 94.33 against a dollar, up 20 paise from its previous close.

“The reopening of the Strait of Hormuz and expectations of smoother crude oil supplies have eased concerns over India’s import bill, providing a strong tailwind for the rupee,” said Jateen Trivedi, commodity and currency analyst at LKP Securities.

Additionally, the latest Federal Reserve policy commentary, which indicated the possibility of one rate hike in 2026, weighed on gold prices and indirectly supported the rupee by reducing demand for safe-haven assets, he said.

The Indian equities markets also extended their winning streak for the fifth consecutive session on Thursday, with the benchmark Sensex and Nifty closing over 0.3% higher.

“The positive undertone was supported by the continued decline in crude oil prices, with Brent crude easing towards the \$77 per barrel mark amid optimism surrounding the US-Iran interim agreement,” said Ajit Mishra, a senior vice president at Religare Broking.

The FIEO president noted that the immediate reopening of the Strait of Hormuz—through which roughly half of India’s crude imports and a vast chunk of container traffic passes—is the single most significant relief for global supply chains.

“The lifting of the US naval blockade and the restoration of normal traffic eliminate long maritime detours. Making our exports to the EU, the US and West Africa much more competitive,” Ralhan said.

Exporters were previously crushed by exorbitant freight fees and prohibitive “war-risk” insurance premiums. Normalisation will slash these overheads, ensuring smoother, faster, and remarkably cheaper transit times to West Asia and European destinations, he added.

AI does 37% of entry-level work in India, says study

AI, From Page 1

One of the key highlights of the study is that 94% anticipate that AI will generate entirely new entry-level roles.

Fluency with AI systems is becoming a baseline hiring criterion as this applies across roles that have never traditionally been defined as technical, like marketing, legal, or operations.

Rajesh Varrier, President—Global Operations and Chairman & Managing Director, Cognizant India, said, “We are seeing a fundamental redesign of roles, where early-career talent is expected to work alongside AI and focus on higher-value outcomes. This shift underscores the necessity for extensive reskilling and improved managerial effectiveness, both of which are key in an economy increasingly shaped by AI.”

AI is reshaping the talent landscape and exposing the limits of traditional talent and learning models, said Kathy Diaz, Chief People Officer, Cognizant.

“With the fundamental shift in entry-level tasks and skill requirements changing rapidly, organisations must rethink how they hire and develop talent at pace,” Diaz added.

The new findings build on Cognizant’s earlier New Work, New World 2026 study, which found that AI is already impacting 93% of jobs. After hiring 20,000 fresh graduates in 2025, the company expects to exceed that number in 2026.

◆ WEATHER ◆

Overview: Dry weather prevailed over Coastal Karnataka, South Interior Karnataka and North Interior Karnataka

Forecast June 19: Rainfall to occur at few places over the state.

INTERIOR NORTH				
Stations	Max	Min	Rain	
Belagavi	33	21	00	
Bidar	39.4	27	00	
Vijayapura	36	22	12.2	
Dharwad	33.6	21	00	
Haveri	32	22	00	
Kalaburagi	37.2	26.7	TR	
Raichur	39	26	00	
COASTAL				
Honnavar	32.3	25	0.4	
Karwar	34.3	26	00	
Shirali	NA	NA	NA	
Mangaluru	32.1	23.3	26.4	

INTERIOR SOUTH				
Stations	Max	Min	Rain	
Agumbe	29.9	23.1	00	
Bengaluru	31.5	22.3	00	
Ballari	NA	NA	NA	
Chamarajanagar	NA	NA	NA	
Chikkamagaluru	NA	NA	NA	
Chitradurga	32.3	22.6	00	
Davangere	33	21.8	00	
Hassan	NA	NA	NA	
Mysuru	34	20	18	
Madikeri	NA	NA	NA	
Kolar	32.6	22.8	00	
OTHER STATIONS				
New Delhi	38.1	27.9	00	
Kolkata	38.3	29.7	00	
Mumbai	34.8	28.5	00	
Chennai	40	28.6	00	
Pune	36.6	24.2	00	
Hyderabad	39	29	00	
Thirupuram	30.6	24.8	08	

IN BRIEF

Centre to ease energy measures

► **NEW DELHI, DHNS:** The Union government will review and gradually roll back emergency energy-security measures introduced during the recent West Asia crisis, a senior official said on Thursday. Sources in the Ministry of Petroleum indicated that the reopening of the waterway and reduction in tensions would help stabilise global energy markets and improve the outlook for energy-importing nations like India.

8.25% EPF interest okayed

► **NEW DELHI, DHNS:** The government has ratified an 8.25% interest rate on Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) deposits for FY2025-26, paving the way for the amount to be credited to the accounts of over 7 crore contributing members this month. This marks the third consecutive year the interest rate has been maintained at 8.25%.

Samajwadi MP junks split talks

► **LUCKNOW, DHNS:** Sanatan Pandey, the Samajwadi Party Lok Sabha member from Ballia, on Thursday refuted the split rumours and said he would remain with the party. The remark comes a day after Uttar Pradesh Minister of Panchayati Raj Om Prakash Rajbhar's claim on the split.

PM-SHRI heat on Cong in Kerala

► **THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS:** Former chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan criticised the Congress-led UDF government for implementing the PM-SHRI scheme in Kerala. This comes amid Congress' key coalition partner IUML taking a strong stand against the scheme, calling it the Sangh Parivar's agenda.

Ex-MP duped of Rs 7.8 crore

► **NEW DELHI, PTI:** Former Rajya Sabha MP Nareish Gujral was allegedly duped of Rs 7.8 crore after cyber fraudsters impersonated him on a messaging app and tricked his company's chief financial officer into transferring funds to multiple bank accounts, police said on Thursday.

Rly porter's Rs 2-cr assets

► **NEW DELHI, PTI:** The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has attached assets worth Rs 2 crore of a 'box boy' working in the railways in a money laundering case linked to alleged possession of disproportionate assets. Prashant Baldevbhai Rabari was working with the Western Railway Zone when he was booked by the Gujarat Police on charges of corruption, the central agency said on Thursday.

BRICS teams reach Agra

► **AGRA, PTI:** Around 60 delegates from BRICS countries started arriving in Agra on Thursday for a three-day visit during which they will participate in an international programme focused on micro, small and medium enterprises MSMEs, officials said. They will take part in the international MSME event on Friday.

3 cr new ration cards likely

► **NEW DELHI, DHNS:** Union Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi on Thursday said states can issue nearly 3 crore more ration cards to eligible beneficiaries following the removal of over 2.21 crore ineligible cards from PDS. The minister clarified that the deletions were done by states with no direct action by the Union government.

For India, AI means 'All Inclusive': Modi bats for tech democratisation

Remark comes week after Anthropic told to take down its latest AI models for foreigners

PARIS, PTI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday made a strong pitch for democratisation of technology, asserting that AI means "all inclusive" for India, days after the US imposed curbs on access to certain artificial intelligence models.

Addressing technology forum VivaTech 2026 in Par-

is, Modi highlighted India's technological prowess and said half of the global digital transactions are happening in the country.

"When it comes to technology, along with innovation, what matters is access. Technology can lead to progress, only when it is democratised. India believes that in this era of disruption, technology must deliver for all," the PM said.

Citing the example of AI (artificial intelligence), Modi said it must improve lives, widen access, drive growth and also "help us sustain a healthy planet".

"Our participation as the AI Country Partner at VivaTech 2026 reflects this very vision. For India, AI means 'All Inclusive'," he said.

Last week, Anthropic took its latest AI models — Fable 5 and Mythos 5 — offline to comply with a directive from the US administration to prevent their use by foreign nationals.

The unprecedented move has raised concerns about accessibility to AI solutions amid a fast-changing economic land-



PM Narendra Modi addresses the VivaTech 2026 in Paris. PTI

scape where such solutions are being increasingly used across sectors.

In the last decade, India has been going through a rapid transformation powered by

NARENDRA MODI
Prime Minister
Our approach is clear. Our government will enable and industry will innovate. Startups will disrupt and global partners will scale with us. Together, we will move faster than ever... Work with India and deliver for all

technology, Modi said. "From creating the world's largest digital identity system, to the world's largest/ digital payments platforms, we are using technology at a massive

scale for financial inclusion, education, telemedicine, agriculture and more," he said.

Referring to his address at VivaTech in 2021, the PM said the world then was facing disruptions from Covid-19.

"Today, the world is experiencing disruptions of other kinds. And I reiterate the message I shared then at VivaTech 2021. Where convention fails, innovation can help," he said.

Modi also said with over 2 lakh startups, India is one of the most vibrant eco-systems in the world and urged attendees to visit the India pavilion.

"...you will get a feel of India's immense energy. Be it

the world's first single-piece 3D printed rocket engine, advanced genetic-engineering therapies, AI solutions that detect cancer and other critical diseases or improve cyber and network security, autonomous robots, smart cities, and mobility solutions," he said.

He said India is simplifying regulations and ensuring ease of doing business.

From innovation to commercialisation, the country is supporting private enterprise through targeted incentives of over \$50 billion, he said, adding that India is also providing one of the world's most affordable data and low-cost green energy.

HC refuses interim order on Bengal LoP post

KOLKATA, PTI: The Calcutta High Court on Thursday refused any interim order on the West Bengal Assembly Speaker Rathindra Bose's decision to appoint break-away TMC group MLA Ritabrata Banerjee as the Leader of Opposition.

TMC legislator Sobhandeb Chattopadhyay moved the court, challenging the rejection of his nomination for the post and the appointment of Banerjee as the Leader of Opposition by the Speaker.

Justice Krishna Rao, refusing any interim order as prayed for by Chattopadhyay on the Speaker's decision, directed that the matter would appear for hearing again on July 28.

With the budget session of the state Assembly commencing on Thursday, and scheduled to conclude business on June 25, the court's refusal to intervene in the matter effectively meant that the Speaker-approved office bearers of the rebel TMC group would continue to function in their respective positions for now.

Congress loses J'khand RS poll, blames cross-voting by allies

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Cross-voting on Thursday cost the Congress a seat in the Rajya Sabha elections in Jharkhand, with the ruling BJP benefiting from the victory of NDA-backed independent Parimal Nathwani, improving its tally to 152 from 149 in the Upper House.

The Congress blamed allies RJD and CPI(ML)L for "betrayal" by not backing its candidate Pranav Jha, who is in charge of party chief Mallikarjun Kharge's office. CPI(ML)L General Secretary Dipankar Bhattacharya rejected cross-voting by the two party MLAs.

In Mizoram, the ruling Zoram People's Movement (ZPM) secured its first-ever representation in the Rajya Sabha, as K Lalitluangkima defeated MNF's Zothansangi Hmar 26-10, with lawmakers voting along party lines. Three MLAs — two from the BJP and one from Congress — abstained, while a ZPM legislator could not vote due to health reasons.



Jharkhand LoP Babulal Marandi and state BJP chief Aditya Sahu with the newly elected NDA-supported Independent candidate Parimal Nathwani, in Ranchi on Thursday. PTI

With this, the BJP-led NDA is cruising toward the two-thirds mark of 163 in a House of 243. Its tally could rise further to 155 when bypolls are held for three seats in West Bengal, even as the I.N.D.I.A bloc's strength has dwindled to 64 following the DMK's exit from the coalition. Others have 26 MPs.

Earlier, the BJP and its allies won 19 seats unopposed, while the I.N.D.I.A bloc saw five of its candidates elected without contest. The BJP also gained an extra seat in Madhya

Pradesh after Congress candidate Meenakshi Natarajan's nomination was rejected on contentious grounds.

Both NDA, I.N.D.I.A increase tally

In this round of Rajya Sabha elections to 27 seats, including three bypolls, both the NDA — from 16 to 20 — and the I.N.D.I.A bloc — from 5 to 7 — increased their numbers, though the Congress lost seats in both Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand.

Trinamool's Aroop Biswas writes to bank to freeze party accounts

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The fight over more than Rs 1,000 crore in funds and assets of the Trinamool Congress has begun, with Aroop Biswas, who was removed as treasurer earlier this month, writing to a bank to block "unauthorised" transactions until the dispute over control of the party's name, symbol and assets is resolved.

Party sources said that the National Working Committee chaired by Mamata Banerjee on June 5 had appointed senior leader Subhasish Chakraborty as treasurer, and that Biswas has no locus standi. The Trinamool has already claimed the rebel faction's claims in both Parliament and the Assembly.

Biswas' letter, dated June 12 and received at HDFC Bank's Central Plaza branch in Kolkata four days later, followed a June 10 meeting where 20 Lok Sabha MPs met Speaker Om Birla and announced their "merger" with the Nationalist Citizens Party of India. The MPs said they would stake

FUND FIGHT
Bank urged to block 'un-authorised' transactions amid TMC split
Mamata camp says Biswas has no locus standi
TMC has assets worth Rs 1,081 cr
Biswas urges bank to maintain status quo, cites cheque misuse fear

claim to the Trinamool name and symbol.

According to the 2024-25 audit report submitted with the Election Commission, the TMC holds assets worth Rs 1,081.78 crore — including Rs 625.78 crore in bank deposits, Rs 250.77 crore in investments and Rs 50 crore in cheques.

The Mamata-led party has imploded over the past month following its electoral deba-

cle in Bengal, where the BJP stormed to power. Besides MPs, nearly 60 MLAs have risen in rebellion against the leadership, especially National General Secretary Abhishek Banerjee.

In his letter, Biswas cautioned that rival factions are claiming to be the legitimate representatives of the Trinamool Congress, creating uncertainty over who is authorised to operate the party's bank accounts.

Writing in his "capacity as treasurer", Biswas urged the bank to "maintain status quo and refrain from permitting any debit transactions or changes in operational mandates" of the party's account in order to safeguard the funds and prevent any unauthorised withdrawals and transfers.

He said that with a "serious dispute" over the authority, control and management of the party's affairs and assets, there exists a "genuine apprehension" that the funds could be utilised by persons not duly authorised to do so.

DIGITAL BLUNDER

Cyber tribunal wound up in 2017, but website lives on

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Cyber Appellate Tribunal (CyAT) was closed down in May 2017 after its merger with the Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT), but authorities have forgotten to shut its website till now, apparently leaving people to unknowingly submit their complaints there.

This came to light during a hearing on an RTI appeal in the Central Information Commission (CIC), prompting Information Commissioner PR Ramesh on Wednesday to direct the National Informatics Centre (NIC) to decommission the CyAT portal within seven days.

The directions came on the appeal filed by Aditya Vilak Kaklij, who had sought information about the freezing of bank accounts related to cybercrime cases, after his account was frozen for over seven months "without any proper updates or resolution despite multiple attempts to contact" authorities.

Kaklij had filed his queries on the RTI portal of CyAT in February 2025 and an appeal in March 2025 after he did not receive a response. The appeal also went unanswered, after which he approached the CIC, where the TDSAT Chief Public Information Officer (CPIO) stated that no such query had been received.

The CPIO also informed the CIC that all judicial appeals pending before the CyAT were transferred to the TDSAT, but there was no information about the Nodal Officer or its credentials for login to the RTI portal of CyAT.

7-day deadline for takedown

Ordering the NIC to take steps to take down the portal within seven days, Ramesh said a government website is not merely a collection of webpages hosted upon a server and pending decommissioning; a notice should be displayed on the portal, clearly informing visitors that its functions stand vested in the TDSAT, with appropriate hyperlinks and contact details.

Digital registry for lawyers: SC seeks views

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Thursday issued notice to the Centre, the Bar Council of India, the University Grants Commission and others on a plea seeking the creation of a National Digital Registry for the Legal Profession, including a unique national advocate identifier for every enrolled lawyer.

A bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice V Mohana observed that the proposal appeared innovative and feasible.

The plea by the Bar Association of India highlighted that India has about 1.8 million enrolled advocates, but no single, publicly verifiable database to confirm genuine enrolment. The court posted the matter for further hearing in July.

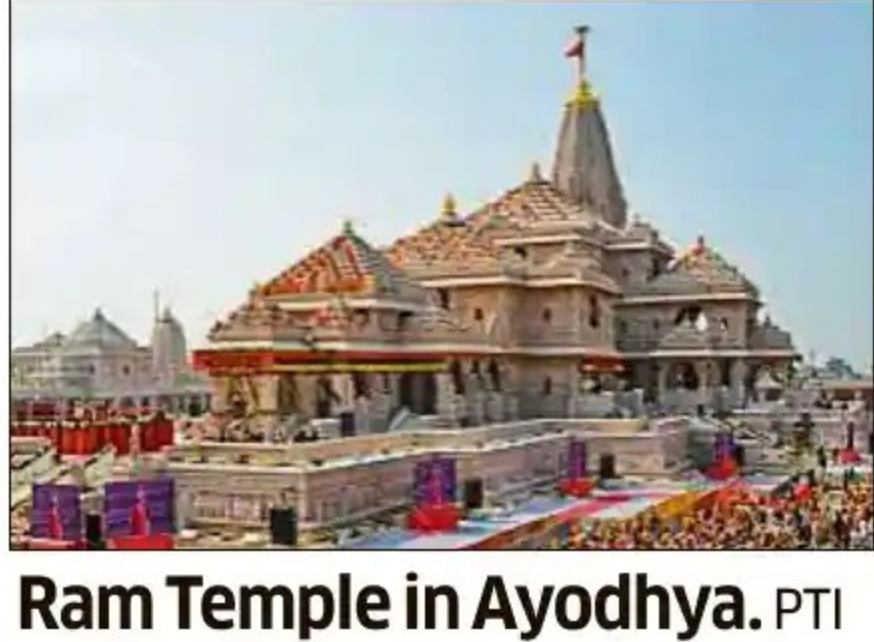
Ram Temple Trust may get CEO amid missing funds row

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

Amid a massive nationwide backlash over alleged 'embezzlement' of cash offerings at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, the Uttar Pradesh government was contemplating appointing a Chief Executive Officer (CEO) in the Shri Ramjanmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, which currently oversees the management of the temple, to ensure 'transparency' in donations and expenditure.

The development comes even as Trust general secretary Champat Rai, who is also among those at the centre of the controversy, reportedly received a snub from CM Yogi Adityanath and was asked to keep away from his visit to Ayodhya on Friday.

The government has



Ram Temple in Ayodhya. PTI

sought legal opinion regarding the a CEO in the trust.

Ram Temple Construction Committee president Nripendra Mishra, while speaking to a TV channel, said that a competent and experienced CEO should be appointed in the Trust to manage the affairs of temple.

The trust was formed by the Centre in February 2020 following directions issued by the Supreme Court in 2019.

Mahant Nritya Gopal Das was made its president, Rai was appointed its general secretary.

Temple fund loopholes: Kerala plans reforms

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS: The Travancore Devaswom Board, which manages 1,250 temples in Kerala, including the Sabarimala temple, is planning reforms in its management systems to plug loopholes that allow misappropriation of devotees' money. Grey areas in accounting practices are said to be a key factor behind the ongoing tussle for postings in major temples.

What makes the posts attractive is the provision to take a portion of the money to purchase pooja materials. "This is a grey area, and massive irregularities have often been detected," a source said. TDB president K Jayakumar said the board was considering centralised purchase and supply of pooja materials.

El Nino stalls monsoon; dry weeks ahead

Weather department says national shortfall at 40%; Mumbai onset delayed

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The advancement of the southwest monsoon into central, western and northern India has stalled due to a “hiatus” in its progress and a “weak” flow triggered by El Nino, top meteorologists said on Thursday.

The onset in Mumbai has been delayed by a week, and rains have eluded much of Maharashtra despite entering the state 11 days ago. The country’s overall rainfall deficiency has reached 40%, with Maharashtra, Gujarat and Jharkhand recording shortfalls of over 70%.

“The hiatus is because of the El Nino effect. The next two to three weeks will be largely dry. This may adversely impact sowing in northern states,” veteran forecaster M Rajeevan, former secretary in the Union Ministry of Earth Sciences, told *DH*.

El Nino is an unusual warming of the Pacific Ocean that

MARCH HALTED

- Monsoon progress into central, western and northern India halted
- Mumbai onset pushed back a week; city may set record for most delayed arrival
- Next 2-3 weeks expected to be largely dry
- IMD sees weak conditions till June 24

plays havoc with weather systems around the world. This year, scientists fear a super El Nino may develop.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) said, “Overall, weaker southwest monsoon conditions are likely to prevail over country for the next one week between June 18 and 24.”

The weather bureau said the situation will improve in the subsequent week (June 25 to

July 1), but experts are not very hopeful. “There can be a short spell of rain, but dry weather will largely continue in north India at least up to July 10,” Rajeevan said.

Currently, El Nino conditions prevail over the equatorial Pacific Ocean and are expected to strengthen further during the southwest monsoon season. According to the IMD, the atmosphere has responded to the warming sea surface temperatures, and the coupled ocean-atmosphere system now exhibits characteristics consistent with El Nino conditions.

Forecasts from the Monsoon Mission Coupled Forecast System indicate a further strengthening of El Nino conditions during the season. With the fear of a strong El Nino developing, the IMD earlier downgraded its monsoon forecast to 90% of average rainfall between June and September.

This means the country is staring at its worst monsoon in a decade. “As per IMD model guidance today, the rainfall activity could pick up on the west coast from June 24, reaching North Konkan around June 26-27,” said KS Hosalkar, a former head of IMD Mumbai.

CBSE row: Firm denies tech glitches

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

Hyderabad-based Coempt Edu Teck, the company at the centre of the controversy over the CBSE’s On-Screen Marking (OSM) system, on Thursday denied allegations of technological failures and security lapses. In its first response to the evaluation row, the company insisted there had been no software error or glitch, attributing the issue instead to manual oversight.

The edtech firm said it had reached out to universities and referred to official records to underline that its operations, compliance standards and service delivery remain fully intact.

Coempt recently conducted an outreach to institutions to provide stakeholders with facts and context on answer sheet accessibility, image quality, data security and its historical track record.

The company also said that, despite isolated bottlenecks, answer sheets have already been successfully delivered to nearly 95% of the students who applied for access.

Education minister reviews re-NEET security measures

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Thursday chaired a high-level review meeting on preparedness for the re-NEET examination, directing officials to closely monitor social media for rumours or alleged paper leaks and to ensure robust coordination mechanisms to safeguard integrity of the test.

According to a presentation reviewed during the meeting, authorities have been asked to activate a multi-layered monitoring and response system ahead of the examination. The measures include setting up operational control rooms and

helplines for examination-day issues, with a clear escalation mechanism for complaints and emergencies.

Officials were instructed to keep a close watch on social media platforms for rumours and claims related to paper leaks and escalate suspicious content to cyber authorities for verification and action. The presentation also called for intelligence inputs on unfair-means networks and activities of coaching centres to be acted upon promptly.

Coordination committees under district magistrates, superintendents of police, district nodal officers and National Testing Agency representatives have been put in place.

Aspirant dies by suicide

A 17-year-old NEET aspirant died by suicide after allegedly jumping from the sixth floor of a residential apartment building in Ahmedabad on Thursday, three days before the nationwide NEET-UG re-test scheduled for June 21.

Police said the preliminary investigation revealed that the boy had not told anyone whether he was under stress or worried after the NEET examination was cancelled due to the paper leak.

(If you are in distress or having suicidal tendencies, please reach out to these 24/7 helplines: KIRAN 1800-599-0019 or Arogya Sahayavani at 104 for help)

SC declines order against CBSE’s 3-language policy

NEW DELHI, PTI: The Supreme Court on Thursday refused to pass any interim order on a plea challenging the implementation of a CBSE policy mandating the study of three languages, including two native Indian languages, for Class 9 students from the 2026-27 academic session.

A bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice V Mohana tagged the plea filed by NGO Friends of People for Active Democracy with similar petitions pending on the issue. “We cannot pass a single-line order today. This matter was argued at length. There is no question of interim protection,” the bench said.

52 Indian institutes feature in QS World University Rankings

NEW DELHI, DHNS

A total of 52 Indian institutions have featured in the latest QS World University Rankings 2027, making the country the fifth most represented on the list after China and Germany.

Three IITs also feature among the 52 institutes. The Indian Institute of Tech-

nology Delhi (IIT Delhi) has retained its position as the highest-ranked Indian institution, climbing five places to secure the 118th position globally.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology topped the charts, followed by London’s Imperial College, Stanford University, Oxford University and Harvard University.

IIT Delhi was followed by IIT Bombay at 134th position and IIT Madras at 170th.

Among Indian institutes, 13 IITs made the cut. However, institutes like Bengaluru’s Christ Deemed-To-Be University and Hyderabad’s Osmania University, which made the cut last year, were absent from the rankings this year.

With 52 institutions, India was the 5th most represented, behind US (195), the UK (93), China (85) and Germany (60).

The rankings, compiled by QS Quacquarelli Symonds, assess universities on indicators such as academic reputation, employer reputation, faculty-student ratio, employment outcomes and sustainability.

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie



Beetle Bailey



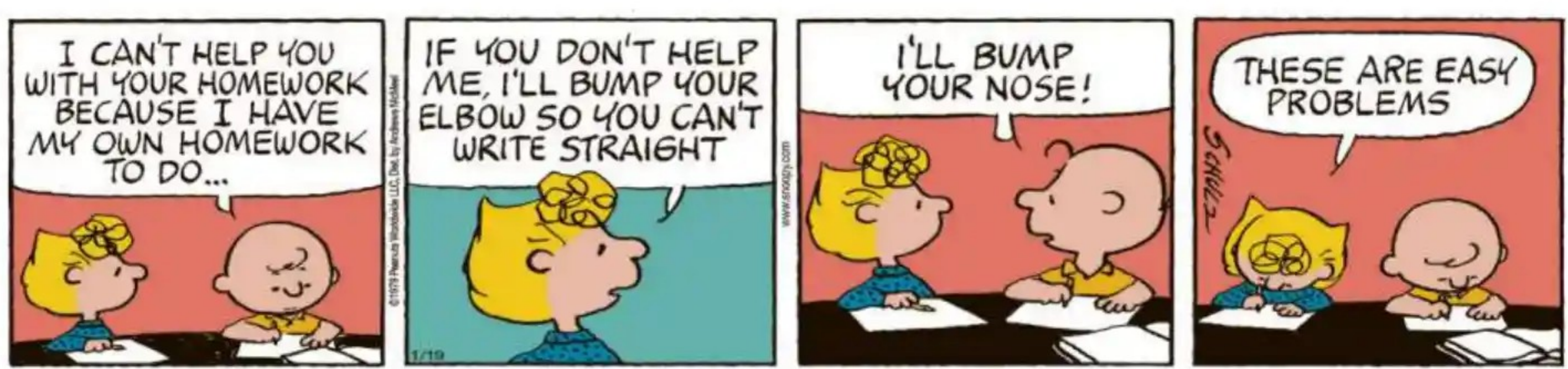
Marvin



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



◆ SU-DO-KU-6936 ◆

			1		4	3		
				9		4		
3				2		9		5
9	2			4				
8	4						2	1
				6			9	7
5		8		1				3
	7			8				
		9	7		6			

8	9	3	5	1	7	4	6	2
1	4	2	6	3	8	9	5	7
7	5	6	9	2	4	3	1	8
4	1	5	8	9	3	2	7	6
6	3	8	7	4	2	1	9	5
2	7	9	1	5	6	8	4	3
3	8	7	4	6	1	5	2	9
9	2	1	3	7	5	6	8	4
5	6	4	2	8	9	7	3	1

SOLUTION TO 6935
To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

HITORI-3390

7	3	6	2	6	1	8	6
3	3	8	4	6	2	5	2
2	6	2	5	7	3	4	2
1	2	6	6	5	2	3	4
8	5	7	3	4	6	2	8
4	7	3	6	2	2	1	6
5	3	4	6	8	2	2	1
6	2	5	2	1	2	6	3

SOLUTION TO 3389

1	4		2	5		6	
	8	5	4			6	3
7	6		5	1		8	
8		7	1		2	4	5
	2	4			3	7	5
6	1		8	7		2	3
5	3	2	7		8	1	
	5	1		6	3	7	2

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3390

			4	17			12	14	19
7		33			13				
			6		10		4	12	
30						27			
7		5			17				
32			24	20					
13									
	16	21				16			
14	19								6
8			14		22	16	8		
24									

SOLUTION TO 3389

			16	17			8	17	
			9	8	7				1
	5	4	7	9	2		5	7	9
	1	3				1	8	6	
	7	4	5	1			4	6	3
	8	1		8	6	9		2	1
	9	8	7	3	1	2	7		
		5	1	3			3	8	1
			2	1	4			9	6
	5	9	3		1	3	2	5	4
	1	8					3	9	7

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3951

					7	4	8	
5								
			7					1
				3				
				6				9
				4			7	2
4	5		9	6				
2	6			1				5
					8			9

SOLUTION TO 3950

9	8	5	3	1	4	2	6	7
6	4	2	8	7	9	5	1	3
1	7	3	2	5	6	4	9	8
4	1	9	5	6	3	8	7	2
8	3	7	4	2	1	6	5	9
2	5	6	9	8	7	3	4	1
7	9	8	6	3	5	1	2	4
3	6	4	1	9	2	7	8	5
5	2	1	7	4	8	9	3	6

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12442

1	2		3	4		5	6	7		8
					9					
10									11	
13		14							15	16
17						18				
20	21								22	23
24						25				
						26				
27										
						29				
30									31	

- ACROSS**
1 Consumers (5)
6 Following (5)
9 Outdoor (4-3)
10 Pier (5)
11 Scamp (5)
12 Shoot (5)
13 Will-bearing (7)
15 Vegetable (3)
17 Routine (4)
18 Help (6)
19 Constructed (5)
20 Floor covering (6)
22 Sparkling water (4)
24 Previous day (3)
25 Discussions (7)
26 Tree (5)
27 Evidence (5)
28 Scope (5)
29 Contempt (7)
30 Brimless cap (5)
31 Principle (5)
- DOWN**
2 Hi-fi (6)
3 Turn (6)
4 Secret agent (3)
5 Shoot from cover (5)
6 Most draughty (7)
7 Amphibian (4)
8 Evades (6)
12 Portly (5)
13 Ceasefire (5)
14 Stow (5)
15 Aviator (5)
16 Book of maps (5)
18 Change (5)
19 Sake (7)
21 Opposed (6)
22 Salty (6)
23 Lust (6)
25 Pop (5)
26 Cipher (4)
28 Illuminated (3)

CRYPTIC

- ACROSS**
1 What the bird said, not to sound expensive? (5)
6 Joan’s associate Brady, perhaps (5)
9 Being wrongly said to swear, make denial (7)
10 Piece torn off? (5)
11 It was unusually washish (5)
12 An arresting word to a sailor, one imagines (5)
13 Belgian city with an American name (7)
15 Dog, perhaps, in the Indian rope trick (3)
17 Getting one out of ten can be beastly (4)
18 One who’s put in as a substitute? (6)
19 What a rider may arrange to get, after a fall at the water jump (5)
20 Made a dramatic departure (6)
22 Safety device a fathead has to employ (4)
24 Organised in haste? (3)
25 Run over by a train, one doesn’t wake up (7)
26 A good deal to yearn for when one has left it (5)
27 Live in something less than style! (3,2)
28 Bit of a tiff, perhaps, with a hothead (5)
29 Teal cocked in gin can be part of one’s food (7)
30 Big, yes, but it can be a baby (5)
31 The very rhyme you want for “grape”, perhaps (5)

- DOWN**
2 Its contents may go to one’s head (6)
3 Name obtained from one’s ID (6)
4 That seedy character with great expectations (3)
5 Received with thanks, you know (5)
6 Surely she wouldn’t really cheat on a bet? (7)
7 The one road to another club’s ground (4)
8 As for bread, perhaps, but you can put eggs in one (6)
12 A growth to put up with and do nothing less (5)
13 Hang around one hotel too many (5)
14 Start to live on booze (5)
15 Like a job of building? (3-2)
16 English rebel who could rely on starting trouble? (5)
18 Used many a tangled tale in business? (5)
19 Charged for only a small quantity, indeed! (7)
21 A boy’s name for Eva Rix, perhaps (6)
22 Catty, but giving one a bit of a lifeline (6)
23 One red as the evening sun? (6)
25 When cut, she still has a warm heart (5)
26 Looking for guidance? Join the club! (4)
28 An evasive answer upsets the FBI (3)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12441

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 4, M-uffin 7, Kinkajou 8, S-Leigh 10, Flesh 13, Heel 14, Fort 15, M-us-e 16, Dab 17, Amen 19, Wail 21, Fieldfare 23, F-inn 24, Rays 26, Max 27, Teed 29, O-me-n 32, Pond 33, Snip-e 34, R-e-cord 35, Old flame 36, ESchew.
DOWN: 1, Ski-ff 2, Under 3, Was-H 4, M-uses 5, Fee-L 6, In goal 9, Leeway 11, Lot 12, S-ta-in 13, Hundred 15, Mel 16, Die 18, Mentor 20, Ar-son 21, Fix 22, F-ad 23, Facers 25, Rep 28, Endow 30, Mil-an 31, N-ever 32, Posh 33, Soft.

EASY
ACROSS: 4, Avenue 7, Eyeliner 8, Spider 10, Avian 13, Root 14, Less 15, Aunt 16, Yet 17, Tarn 19, Aden 21, Liberates 23, Sari 24, Iron 26, Wed 27, Doom 29, Iris 32, Beat 33, Smile 34, Stress 35, Imminent 36, Breads.
DOWN: 1, Metal 2, Denis 3, Lion 4, Arson 5, Exit 6, Uneven 9, Potato 11, Vet 12, Astir 13, Run riot 15, Are 16, Yes 18, Abides 20, Denim 21, Lad 22, Arm 23, Sector 25, Nil 28, Oasis 30, Rider 31, Seats 32, Beta 33, Sail.

SCRABBLE™

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PAR SCORE 170-180

by JUDD

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

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RACK 4 = 60

PAR SCORE 105-115

JUDD'S TOTAL 163

First tankers cross Strait of Hormuz

Israel in 'stubborn negotiations' with US to preserve mission in Lebanon

BEIRUT/JERUSALEM/LONDON, REUTERS

Three Saudi-flagged supertankers carrying 6 million barrels of crude sailed through the Strait of Hormuz on Thursday, hours after United States President Donald Trump signed a deal with Iran to end the war that has disrupted global energy supplies.

The US military has lifted its blockade of maritime traffic entering and exiting Iranian ports and coastal areas, US Central Command said in a post on X on Thursday.

But in Lebanon, Israeli forces launched fresh airstrikes on Thursday morning, raising



Vessels are seen anchored in Bandar Abbas along the Strait of Hormuz on Thursday. AFP

doubts about how far Trump will go to force his allies to halt an offensive he has now pledged to end.

Though shippers say it will still take time for transit across the strait to reach pre-war levels, with a need to ensure safe access and clear mines, there were immediate signs of an impact.

Ships that might once have concealed their positions by switching off their transpon-

ders were now broadcasting their locations.

Meanwhile, Israel, which launched an invasion in March and has since seized a large swathe of Lebanon in its pursuit of Hezbollah militants, was excluded from the negotiations. A senior Israeli official said Israel was “conducting stubborn negotiations” with the US over continuing its deployment of troops in Lebanon.

Hegseth announces review of US forces in Europe

US defence secretary blasts Nato allies

BRUSSELS, AP/PTI

US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth lashed out at Nato allies on Thursday, announcing a six-month Pentagon review of American forces in Europe, the outcome of which will depend on how quickly Europeans take responsibility for their own security.

“This will be a real review. It will be designed to ensure that Nato is moving fast and irreversibly toward Europe leading, stepping up to take primary responsibility for the defence of Europe,” he told his Nato counterparts in Brussels.

Hegseth lambasted European allies for failing to provide US forces access to bases in Europe to launch attacks on Iran, calling it “shameful.”

“These allies, they put America’s sons and daughters, at risk by denying them the predictable access, basing and overflight that never should have been in question

at all,” he said. Hegseth also railed against migration and gender equality policies in Europe, in remarks reminiscent of those made by Vice President JD Vance in February last year that angered many Europeans.

“Instead of tanks and fighters and air defences, the focus has been on gender equity and climate change and defence austerity. Europe’s borders flew wide open, welfare states expanded, and defence budgets cratered, along with Europe’s belief in itself and its civilisation,” Hegseth said.

Hegseth’s comments largely mischaracterised European policies today.

Vance warns Israeli critics: Trump is your only ally

US Vice President JD Vance lashed out at Israeli critics of the Iran deal on Thursday, saying President Donald Trump is Israel’s “only ally”, Reuters reports from Washington.

As the Trump administration defended its deal to end the war with Iran, Vance was asked about a report that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was fuming over the deal. Vance said

he had not heard such comments from Netanyahu but criticized members of the Israeli leader’s cabinet, whom he said have attacked the deal and attacked Trump. “My message to them would be twofold. No 1: Donald J Trump is the only head of state in the entire world who is sympathetic to the nation of Israel at this moment in time,” Vance told reporters.

DIFFERENT VIEW ON DEAL: MOJTABA

■ Iran’s supreme leader Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei said on Thursday that he had approved a deal with the United States to end the war despite having a “different view”, without elaborating. “In principle, I had a different view, but I issued my permission due to the commitment that the honourable (Iranian) president gave me on behalf of himself and other members to protect the rights of the Iranian nation and the Resistance Front,” Khamenei said.

Netanyahu calls for preserving ‘vital relationship’ with US

JERUSALEM, AFP: Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu underscored the importance of maintaining close ties with the United States on Thursday, saying Washington had stood by Israel during the West Asia war.

Netanyahu’s remarks came as relations with his country’s most important ally have come under strain over the US-Iran agreement, which Israeli analysts have sharply criticised.

“The struggle is not yet over, and further challenges lie ahead. They require calm judgement, steadfast defence of Israel’s security interests, and at the same time the preservation of our vital relationship with our American friends, who stood shoulder to shoulder with us in this fight – a partnership we deeply appreciate,” Netanyahu said at an event.

Pak raises concerns over Indus river projects

ISLAMABAD, PTI: Pakistan’s Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar on Thursday expressed concern over Indian projects on the Indus River, warning that such measures could pose serious risks to regional stability and water security.

Dar, who also serves as foreign minister, made the remarks while addressing a seminar via video link organised by the Embassy of Pakistan in Brussels and the Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS).

Dar “expressed concern over recent Indian reservoir expansion and water diversion projects on the Indus

River system, warning that such measures could alter natural river flows, foster hydro-hegemony, and pose serious risks to regional stability and water security”, according to the Foreign Office.

He also reaffirmed Pakistan’s commitment to dialogue, diplomacy and international law, while calling for greater international co-operation on water security.

Dar emphasised that peaceful coexistence among nations rests on respect for international law, treaty obligations and multilateral frameworks.

Indian teen dies in horse carriage accident in NYC

NEW YORK, PTI: An Indian teenager died while trying to save his mother, who was thrown from a horse-drawn carriage after the horse suddenly bolted in the famous Central Park in New York City.

Romanch Mahajan, 18, was on his first trip to New York with his family when the incident took place on Wednesday. The New York Times reported.

Ukrainian drones set Moscow refinery ablaze

MOSCOW, AP/PTI

Ukraine struck a major Moscow oil refinery on Thursday for a second time in a week, sending huge plumes of black smoke over the capital and disrupting flights at its airports in one of its biggest drone attacks since Russia’s full-scale invasion more than four years ago, officials said.

Ukraine has repeatedly targeted Russian oil facilities, aiming to cut Moscow’s revenue for the war and make Russians feel the consequences of the invasion. Some areas have reported fuel shortages.

The attack by dozens of drones came hours after Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said he had held “an important coordination call” with the presidents of the US and France and had secured key pledges of further support from this week’s G7 summit.

“If Ukraine is going to burn, your Moscow will burn too,” Zelenskyy said, adding that the attack was part of

Kyiv’s effort to bring Russian President Vladimir Putin to the negotiating table. “It is time to end the aggression, time to end this war.”

Zelenskyy was expected to hold talks in Brussels later on Thursday with Nato and European Union leaders, including discussions on the possibility of a continental system to defend against ballistic missiles. Russia has relentlessly struck Ukraine with such missiles, which air defences struggle to counter.

The Moscow attack was the latest embarrassment for Putin, following a Ukrainian drone strike on his hometown of St Petersburg earlier this month as he welcomed foreign VIPs to his flagship economic forum in the city.

Thick black smoke and occasional flames billowed from the Moscow Oil Refinery amid its red-and-white smokestacks on the south-eastern edge of the city, about 15 kilometres from the Kremlin. Sooty black rain fell on cars, according to local video footage.



A woman walks outside a shopping mall as black smoke rises from the area of the Russian oil producer Gazprom Neft’s Moscow oil refinery on Thursday. AFP

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAYS

MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
NOTIFICATION
Bengaluru, 2nd June 2026

S. O. 2801(E). In exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (1) of Section 20 A of the Railway Act 1989 (24 of 1989) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act) the central Government after being satisfied that for the public purpose the land the brief description of which has been given in the schedule annexed hereto is required for the execution of the Special railway project in lieu of Level crossing No. 81 Construction of ROB between Karadi-Tiptur hereby declares its intention to acquire such land.

Any person interested in the said land may within Thirty days from the date of publication of this notification in the official Gazette raise objection to the acquisition and use of such land for the aforesaid purpose under sub-section(1) of Section 20D of the said Act.

Every such objection shall be made to the Competent Authority and Special Land Acquisition Officer Tumakuru-Rayadurga and Tumakuru-Davanagere Railway project Tumakuru for ROB / RUB's in lieu of Level crossing No. 81 Construction of R.O.B. between Karadi-Tiptur in writing and shall set out the grounds thereof and the competent authority shall give the objector an opportunity of being heard either in person or by a legal practitioner and may after hearing all such objections and after making such further enquiry if any as the competent authority thinks necessary by order either allow or disallow the objections.

Any order made by the competent authority under sub-section (2) of Section 20 D of the said Act shall be final.

The land plans and other details of the land covered under this notification are available and can be inspected by the interested person at the aforesaid Office of the Competent Authority and Special Land Acquisition Officer Tumakuru-Rayadurga and Tumakuru-Davanagere Railway project Tumakuru.

SCHEDULE

Brief description of the land to be acquired with or without structure falling within the proposed Special Railway Project of bridges in lieu of Level crossing No. 81 Construction of ROB between Karadi-Tiptur.

Sl. No.	Sy No	Beneficiary	Acquired Extent (In Acres-Guntas)				Classification of land
			Total (A-G)	A-Kharab (A-G)	B-Kharab (A-G)	Balance (A-G)	
1	52/4	B.S. Basavaraju S/O Shivappa	0-36	-	-	0-36	Dry
2	52/5	T.S. Channegowda S/O Subagaiahgowda	0-00 1/2	-	-	0-00 1/2	Dry
3	52/6	T.S. Channegowda S/O Subagaiahgowda	0-03 1/2	-	-	0-03 1/2	Dry
4	52/7	Dil Shadibee D/O Mohammed Husheen Sab Shahataj Bee D/O Mohammed Husheen Sab	0-02	-	-	0-02	Dry
5	52/11	T.S. Channegowda S/O Subagaiahgowda	0-05 1/2	-	-	0-05 1/2	Dry
6	52/13	M Sowbhagya W/O T.S. Channegowda	0-02	-	-	0-02	Dry
7	53	T.S. Channegowda S/O Subagaiahgowda	0-04	-	-	0-04	Dry
8	57	Kempaiah S/O Channaiiah M. Veeraraju S/O K.M. Munikrishnappa M. Veeraraju K.C. Gangadharaiah S/O Chandraiah Vasanthamma D/O Chandraiah Gurudatt S/O Chandraiah Mamatha D/O Chandraiah Rangaiah S/O Dasanna Ramaiah S/O Lakkaiah Lakshmi W/O K.M. Ravindra Gangamma W/O Chandraiah K.C. Gangadharaiah S/O Chandraiah Vasanthamma D/O Chandraiah Gurudatta S/O Chandraiah Mamatha D/O Chandraiah Gangamma W/O Chandraiah Gomala Lakshmi W/O K.M. Ravindra	0-37 1/2	-	-	0-37 1/2	Grant
Total			2-11	-	-	2-11	-

ABSTRACT			
Dry	Grant	Kharab	Total
1-13 1/2	0-37 1/2	-	2-11

No.W.271/CN/BNC/2026-27/Land SRP/1727

For details log on : <https://egazette.gov.in>

Sd/-
(Pardeep Puri)

Chief Engineer-III/Construction , Bengaluru Cantonment

PUB/229/AAS/PRB/SWR/2026-27

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SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAYS

MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
NOTIFICATION
Bengaluru, 3rd June 2026

S. O. 2838 (E) – Whereas by the notification of the Central Government (Ministry of Railway, South Western Railway, Construction Organisation, Bengaluru Cantonment) S.O. 4936(E) dated 31.10.2025 published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section – 3, Sub-section (ii) issued under Section 2, Clause 20A of Railway Act, 1989 (24 of 1989) (herein referred to as the said act) the Ministry of Railway, South Western Railway, Construction Organisation, Bengaluru Cantonment declare its intention to acquire the land specified in the schedule annexed to the said notification for “Construction of 2 lane ROB in lieu of LC No.33 at km.59/800-900 at Pandithanahalli village” in the district of Tumakur, in the state of Karnataka.

And whereas the substance of the said notification has been published in Prajavani news paper dated 14.11.2025 and Deccan Herald news paper dated 14.11.2025 under Section 2, Clause 20A of Railway Act, 1989. And whereas the Competent Authority has received objections filed under section 2, clause 20D, considered and settled the same appropriately.

And whereas, in pursuance of Section 2, Clause 20E of Railway Act, 1989, the competent authority has submitted its report to the Ministry of Railway, South Western Railway, Construction Organisation, Bengaluru Cantonment.

Now, therefore, upon receipt of the said report of the competent authority and in exercise of the powers conferred by the Section 2, Clause 20E of Railway Act, 1989, the Ministry of Railway, South Western Railway, Construction Organisation, Bengaluru Cantonment hereby declares that the land specified in the said Schedule should be acquired for the aforesaid purpose;

And further, in pursuance of Section 2, Clause 20E of Railway Act, 1989, the Ministry of Railway, South Western Railway, Construction Organisation, Bengaluru Cantonment hereby declares that on publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, the land specified in the said Schedule shall vest absolutely in the Central Government, free from all encumbrances.

SCHEDULE

Brief description of the land to be acquired with or without structures falling in the stretch of land in the district of Tumakur in the state of Karnataka.

State:Karnataka						District:Tumakur
Taluk:Tumakur						Village: Pandithanahalli
Sl No	Sy No/ Plot No	Type of land	Nature of land	Area in A-G	Name of the land owner/Interested person	
1	50/3	N.A. K	N.A. K	0-05	B.G.Gangahanumegowda S/O Gangappa	
2	53/3	Dry	Dry	0-02 1/2	Neelamma W/O Vithalaswamy, Boganasimhalah, S/O Late Narasahanumaiah, P.N. Girish S/O Narasahanumaiah (joint) Gowramma W/O Late Hanumanthaihal, Lakshmanmma W/O Late Lakshmaiah (joint)	
3	55/1	Dry	Dry	0-04 1/4	Narasamma and her sons and Daughters Narasimhaiah & Narasimhamurthy (Joint), Lakshmaiah S/O Anjini, Hanumanthaihal S/O Anjini, Gangamma S W/O Sathish, Siddaiah S/O Ramaiah,H Gangahanumaiah S/O Hanumaiah, L Narasahanumaiah S/O Lenkappa (Joint)	
4	56	Dry	Dry	0-03 3/4	Narasimhamurthy D.P. S/O Late Doddaihal, Kulalavadi Inam, Puttahanumaiah, Danahanuma, Sanjeeva, Gangahanumaiah, Lenkahanuma, Gangamma W/O Huchhahanumma (Joint) Bhagya W/O Lakshmiipathi P.H	
5	57/6	N.A.K.	N.A.K.	0-00 1/2	M.N. Lakshmikanthaihal S/O Narasegowda	
6	(1)50/3& (2)57/4	Road	Road	0-33	From National Highway 48 to North side Pandithanahalli Village road from Sy.No. 50/3 to Sy.No 57/4	
Total				1A-09G (0A-33G Govt road, 0A-16G private land)		

No.W.271/CN/BNC/2026-27/Land SRP/1727

For details log on : <https://egazette.gov.in>

Sd/-
(Pardeep Puri)

Chief Engineer-III/Construction, Bengaluru Cantonment

PUB/230/AAS/PRB/SWR/2026-27

Download the RailOne app for easy ticket booking, PNR status, and more railway services.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

APPLICATION NOTIFICATION NO. B/C.210/Halt/2026-27/SBC Division, Date: 10.06.2026

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites sealed applications for appointment of Halt Agent from educated unemployed persons residing in and around the Kempegowda International Airport (KIAD), Someshwar (SMWA), Jannagatta (GJT) and Kamasamudram (KSM) Train Halt station for issuing Unreserved tickets on Commission Basis for a period of five (05) years or up-gradation of the station whichever is earlier.

Sl.No.	Halt Station	Section	To Start functioning from
1.	Kempegowda International Airport (KIAD)	YNK	Date will be notified by the Administration.
2.	Someshwara (SMWA)		
3.	Jannagatta (GJT)		
4.	Kamasamudram (KSM)	BWT	

Last date for Submission of Application : **Upto 10.00 hrs to 16.00 hrs on 14.07.2026**

For details log on : www.swr.indianrailways.gov.in

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Bengaluru

PUB/220/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2026-27

Download the RailOne app for easy ticket booking, PNR status, and more railway services.

WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY

COMMERCIAL DEPARTMENT, JABALPUR DIVISION

DRM (Commercial) Jabalpur, on behalf of president of India invited e-Auction for the earning and leasing contracts from Jabalpur Division. Details are as under:- **Category:** Parcel, **Catalogue No.:** JBP-Par-26-June, **Auction Start :** 01.07.2026, 12:00 hrs.

Lot No.	Assets Details	Auction End
20152-SLR-F1-REWA-HDP-26-1	PARCEL LEASING /FSLR FOR THREE YEAR ONLY	01.07.26, 12:00 hrs.
12181-SLR-F1-JBP-ALL-26-1	PARCEL LEASING /FSLR FOR THREE YEAR ONLY	01.07.26, 12:40 hrs.
20906-SLR-F1-REWA-EKNR-26-1	PARCEL LEASING /FSLR FOR THREE YEAR ONLY	01.07.26, 12:50 hrs.
20162-SLR-F1-JBP-PUNE-26-1	PARCEL LEASING /FSLR FOR THREE YEAR ONLY	01.07.26, 13:00 hrs.
12194-SLR-F1-JBP-YPR-26-1	PARCEL LEASING /FSLR FOR THREE YEAR ONLY	01.07.26, 13:10 hrs.
22181-SLR-F1-JBP-NZM-26-1	PARCEL LEASING /FSLR FOR THREE YEAR ONLY	01.07.26, 13:20 hrs.
12186-SLR-F1-REWA-RKMP-26-1	PARCEL LEASING /FSLR FOR THREE YEAR ONLY	01.07.26, 13:30 hrs.
12062-SLR-F1-MML-RKMP-26-1	PARCEL LEASING /FSLR FOR THREE YEAR ONLY	01.07.26, 13:40 hrs.
11651-SLR-F1-JBP-SGRL-26-1	PARCEL LEASING /FSLR FOR THREE YEAR ONLY	01.07.26, 13:50 hrs.
11754-SLR-F1-REWA-NITR-26-1	PARCEL LEASING /FSLR FOR THREE YEAR ONLY	01.07.26, 14:00 hrs.
12187-SLR-F1-JBP-CSMT-26-1	PARCEL LEASING /FSLR FOR THREE YEAR ONLY	01.07.26, 14:10 hrs.

Prospective Bidders are requested to visit e-Auction Leasing module on IREPS website (www.ireps.gov.in). The Lot-wise details are available therein under the above mentioned catalogue No. E-Auction information is also available on the notice board of Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial) west central Railway, Jabalpur.

Sd/-

For Divisional Railway Manager (C), West Central Railway, Jabalpur

स्वच्छ भारत अभियान एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that my client intends to purchase the immovable property mentioned and described the schedule below from its owners (i) **Smt. K. Anuradha**, wife of Late K. Vijaya Kumar, and (ii) **Sri. K. Premaraj**, son of Late K. Vijaya Kumar (hereafter collectively referred to as “Owners”). The Owners represent that the Schedule Property is free from any encumbrance, mortgage, charge, lien or litigation and they have not entered any sort of Agreement/MOU/Deeds etc., for transfer of the Schedule Property. Any person/s having any objection, claim, right, title and/or interest with respect to the Schedule Property or any part or portion thereof by way of sale, conveyance, acquisition, partition, transfer, memorandum of understanding, exchange, mortgage, pledge, charge, encumbrance, inheritance, succession, lease, easement or demand or objections or claims of any nature whatsoever for the proposed transaction shall lodge their claim(s)/objection(s)/demand(s) with the undersigned supported by documentary evidence **within Fifteen (15) days** from the date of publication of this Notice failing which, my client shall proceed with the above-mentioned transaction as though there are no claim(s)/objection(s)/demand(s) to the proposed transaction.

SCHEDULE

All the piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing Survey No. 53/9 (earlier part of Survey No. 53/8, much earlier part of Survey No. 53/2) measuring 1 acre 2 ½ guntas, situated at Kachamaranahalli Village, Varthur Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, Bengaluru District and bounded on the:

East by : Land bearing Survey No. 63;
West by : Land bearing Survey No. 53/2;
North by : Land bearing Survey No. 53/8; and
South by : Land bearing Survey No. 53/4.

Vinay K. S., Advocate,
Vinay Kademane & Associates
307, 3rd Floor, Prestige Centre Point, No.7/49,
Edward Road, Bengaluru-560001
Ph.: 080 22863885 / 49763233
email: vinay@vinaykademane.in

Place : Bengaluru
Date : 18-06-2026

Dhinidhi wins 100m freestyle with new record

BENGALURU, DHNS: Dhinidhi Desinghu broke her own national mark en route to the 100m freestyle gold as Karnataka continued to lead the medals tally by some distance at the 79th Senior National Aquatics Championships (swimming) in Ahmedabad on Thursday.

Shoan Ganguly clinched the other gold on the day for Karnataka while Dhinidhi added a silver and Rujula S a bronze in the women's 400m freestyle and 100M freestyle respectively.

Darshan S bagged a silver in men's 1500M freestyle while the third and fourth bronzes for the State came from Shivank Vishwanath in the 400m medley and men's 4x100 medley relay team which was won by Tamil Nadu with a new meet record.

Earlier, Dhinidhi set the pool ablaze by winning the women's 100m freestyle with a new meet record of 56.57 seconds, shaving her own mark by 0.21 seconds, set in Bhubaneswar last year.

Karnataka sit on top of the heap with 10 gold, six bronze and as many silver medals, comfortably ahead of the second-placed Maharashtra (4 gold, 2 silver and 4 bronze medals).

Shoan continued his impressive run in the championships by winning the men's 400m individual medley in 4:24.80, finishing ahead of Madhya Pradesh's Advait Page. Karnataka also picked up a silver through Naisha in the women's 200m backstroke, where she trailed Odisha's Pratyasa Ray.

In the women's 100m free-



Dhinidhi Desinghu



Shoan Ganguly

style, Rujula joined Dhinidhi on the podium with a bronze medal.

Results: Men: 400m Medley: Shoan Ganguly (Kar, 4:24.80) 1; Advait Page (MP, 4:26.36) 2; Shivank Vishwanath (Kar, 4:35.96) 3.

1500m Freestyle: Aryan Nehra (Guj, 15:14.88) 1; Dharshan S (Kar, 15:38.00) 2; Kushagra Rawat (Del, 15:41.66) 3.

4x100m Medley: Tamil Nadu (MJ) Praveen Kumar, Danush Suresh, B Ben-edicton Rohit, Adhithya Dinesh; 3:44.74 NMR) 1; RSPB (Devansh Parmar, Lohith M, Bikram Chhangmai, Sathya Sai Krishnan M; 3:48.89) 2; Karnataka (Akash Mani, Surya Jhoyappa OR, Chintan S Shetty, Monish P V; 3:48.92) 3.

Women: 100m Freestyle: Dhinidhi Desinghu (Kar, 56.57 NMR) 1; Jahnavi Kashyap (Assam, 57.64) 2; Rujula S (Kar, 57.98) 3.

200m Backstroke: Pratyasa Ray (Odi, 2:20.22) 1; Naisha (Kar, 2:21.64) 2; Jiya Yadav (UP, 2:22.26) 3.

400m Freestyle: Aditi Hegde (Mah, 4:25.31) 1; Dhinidhi Desinghu (Kar, 4:25.76) 2; Vritti Agarwal (Tel, 4:25.88) 3.

Former India captain became most capped player

HITA PRAKASH
BENGALURU, DHNS

After an unforeseen delay, Manpreet Singh finally has 413 caps, representing the senior Indian men's hockey team. This is the most by a player from any country so far and it has taken 15 years for the 33-year-old to achieve the feat. But ask the midfield mainstay about what the milestone means to him, and he chooses to remain nonchalant.

"It feels good. But nothing will change," said Manpreet during an online media interaction organised by Hockey India on Thursday.

"I don't walk into the field thinking I'm the most-capped Indian player and everybody needs to listen to me'. No. Supporting the team is very important for me because in hockey, you cannot achieve anything alone. It has been everyone's support that I have been able to reach this personal achievement."

On Wednesday, during India's 3-1 win over Germany

at the FIH Pro League game in Rotterdam (Netherlands), Manpreet surpassed former India captain and HI president Dilip Tirkey's previous best record of 412 caps. During this long journey, Manpreet has captured an Olympic bronze while captaining the squad at the Tokyo Games in 2022 before the second third-place finish came at the Paris Games in 2024. To go with them, the Arjuna awardee has two Asian Games golds (2014 and 2022).

As his longevity garners widespread respect and appreciation from colleagues, hockey fraternity and beyond, Manpreet insists that his core values to play the sport still remains as intact as when he started off.

"I wanted to do well for the team. I wanted to win medals. It is a big thing to represent the country. You have to look at it with pride. Even if I get injured, that craziness of wanting to give a 100% doesn't go away for me," offered the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award winner in 2021.

HOCKEY

I still have a lot of dreams, LA is one of them: Manpreet



With 413 caps to his name, Manpreet Singh became India's most-capped hockey player, fifth on the all-time list and the only active player among the top five. AFP FILE PHOTO

While the Jalandhar-born player is as hungry as ever to keep learning and improving, the key to staying relevant according to Manpreet, despite an aging body, is focusing on maintaining high physical fitness levels.

"I have paid a lot of attention to my fitness. I have to match the level of the youngsters. They keep me on my toes."

Manpreet's obsessive work on fitness is for all to see as he is still

one of the quickest players with a sharp reflex. For someone who refuses to stop, what could be the goals he has set for himself at this point in his career?

"I want a World Cup medal (in August in Netherlands and Belgium). I want to play in the Asian Games (in September in Japan). I want to play in LA (Los Angeles Olympics in 2028).. This, of course, only if I can maintain the required fitness levels. If not I will take

a call next season (about playing further). I don't want to be selected in the Indian squad as an unfit player. But I still have a lot of dreams."

With six more matches left at the ongoing FIH Pro League, Manpreet's tally is set to reach 419 by the end of June. The magnitude of this number (or more), for Manpreet and the rest, will perhaps be completely savoured only when it stops ticking.

Minakshi punches quarters ticket

GUIYANG, PTI

Indian boxer Minakshi (in pic) advanced to the quarterfinals of World Cup (Stage 2) in the women's 51kg category here on Thursday.

Minakshi, the reigning 48kg world champion and current World No. 1 in that division, is transitioning into the Olympic 51kg weight class in the ongoing event.

She registered a convincing 5-0 unanimous decision victory over Poland's Natalia Kuczevska to move ahead in the competition.

In the other contest on day four, Abhinash Jamwal (65kg) bowed out after suffering a 0-5 defeat to Kyrgyzstan's Mirzokhid Imamnazarov.

So far in the tournament, five Indian boxers have advanced to the quarterfinals.

Nikhil (55kg), Deepak (70kg), Minakshi (51kg), Prachi (57kg), and Saneh (65kg). Meanwhile, Jyoti (48kg) and Jugnoo (85kg) have already assured medals for the country by progressing into the semi-finals.

Four Indian boxers will take the ring in their quarterfinal bouts.

In the women's section, Minakshi (51kg) will square off against Kazakhstan's Alua Balkibekova, Saneh (65kg) will face Poland's Kinga Krowka, and Prachi (57kg) will take on Chinese Taipei's Shih Yi Wu. In the men's section, Nikhil (55kg) clashes with Azerbaijan's Amin Mammadzade.



Nervous Neeraj returns to happy hunting ground

Tough field awaits in Keshorn, Anderson, Rumesh and Julius

ADITYA K HALDER
BENGALURU, DHNS

India's javelin star Neeraj Chopra is all set to kick off his 2026 season late in June as the Tokyo Olympic champion returns to one of his favourite venues Suheim bin Hamad Stadium in Doha for the Diamond League on Friday.

Neeraj carries fond memories from last year at the event as he hurled his first much-awaited 90 metre throw (90.23 precisely). Unfortunately, the 28-year-old man couldn't win the event as Germany's Julian Weber cleared 91.06 to claim the winner-takes-all title.

Since he is starting the season late again due to a niggle, especially after the last season ended unsuccessfully at the World Championships with backissues, there was a growing concern if he is fit enough to go the big distance. Neeraj cleared those worries, stating that he is feeling fit and will be aiming at 90m after admitting he feels a



Neeraj Chopra has recovered from a niggle to start his season at the Doha Diamond League on Friday. REUTERS FILE PHOTO

bit nervous upon his late start.

"I will try my best. I feel really good and fit, let's see tomorrow," said Neeraj during a press conference in Doha, which was also attended virtually by select

media outlets. He gave further insights into his preparations, adding that his participation was a late call, taken a week before.

"I started throwing one and a half months ago and we took

our time. Then I asked the organisers if it's possible if I let them know (about participation), like one week ago. They said yes and then we decided after my last session," Neeraj said.

The one-day event is also an ideal preparation for the August's Commonwealth Games, which is expected to see almost all the best of javelin talents in attendance, as reigning World Champion Keshorn Walcott of Trinidad and Tobago has entered his name. The elite field also includes Grenada's Anderson Peters, Germany's Jakub Vadlejch and Sri Lanka's Rumesh Pathirage, the new entrant of the 90m club.

BENGALURU SOUTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer Traffic Engineering and Mobility Cell,
2nd Floor, 9th Main Road, Jayanagara South 2nd block, Bengaluru -560 011.
Email: tecsouthpalike@gmail.com

No. EE/BSCC/TE&MC/TEND/09/2026-27

Date: 18.06.2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER
(Two Cover System)
(Through GoK KPP Portal <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> only)
For the Comprehensive Aesthetic Beautification of Existing Flyovers and Underpasses in BSCC, The Office of the Executive Engineer, Traffic Engineering and Mobility Cell, Bengaluru South City Corporation, invites sealed proposals and bids from reputed Architectural Firms, Urban Designers, Specialized Creative Agencies, and for the preparation of DPR for comprehensive aesthetic beautification, structural enhancement, and landscaping of existing flyovers and underpasses situated within Zone-1 and Zone-2.

S.N.	Name of the Location of Underpass / Flyover
1	Package 1 : Preparation of comprehensive DPR for the scope of work mentioned above at the following underpasses: 1) Madiwala Under pass near Aiyappa Swamy Temple on Hosur road 2) Jayadeva Underpass on Bannerghatta road 3) Puttenahalli Underpass 4) Kadirenahalli Underpass. Approx. % of the Estimated Cost for preparation of DPR: 1.0%. EMD : Rs.1,00,000/-.
2	Package 2 : Preparation of comprehensive DPR for the scope of work mentioned above at the following Flyovers: 1) Central Silk Board Flyover 2) Agara Junction on ORR Flyover 3) 14th Main HSR layout Flyover on ORR 4) Dalmia Junction flyover on ORR. Approx. % of the Estimated Cost for preparation of DPR: 1.0%. EMD : Rs.1,00,000/-.
3	Package 3 : Preparation of comprehensive DPR for the scope of work mentioned above at the following Elevated Corridor: Elevated corridor double decker from Ragigudda Metro Station upto Central Silk Board. Approx. % of the Estimated Cost for preparation of DPR: 1.0%. EMD : Rs.1,00,000/-.

Submission Guidelines & Timelines Availability of Tender Document: 1) Availability of Tender Document in KPPP portal: 22.06.2026 on wards. 2) Date and time of per bid meeting : 29.06.2026at 15:00 Hrs. 3) Last date & time for Queries 29.06.2026 at 16:00 Hrs. 4) Last Date & Time for receipt of Tenders 07.07.2026 at 16:00 Hrs. 5) Opening of Technical bid: 08.07.2026at 16:30 Hrs. 6) Opening of Financial bid (if possible) After the approval of Technical Evaluation.
Sd/- Executive Engineer – Zone 1&2 Traffic Engineering and Mobility Cell

RANI CHANNAMMA UNIVERSITY
Vidyasangama, P.B.National Highway-04, Belagavi-591156
(NAAC Accredited with B+ Grade - 2021)
Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan
E-mail: registrar@rcub.ac.in Phone No.: 0831-2565242

Office of the Registrar

Ref No: RCU/Belagavi/RO/2026-27/1496

Date:18.06.2026

-: Tender Notification (Through KPPP Portal):-
Rani Channamma University, Belagavi invites following e-tenders for the procurement of Scientific Equipment under P.M UshA Scheme from eligible bidders.

SN	Tender Name	EMD	EMD
1	Cryogen Free-Closed Cycle Refrigerator Systems and Freeze Dryer RCUB/2026 27/IND0035.		Rs.94,500/-
2	Photoluminescence Spectrometer and High Temperature Furnace (RCUB/2026-27/IND0036.)		Rs.66,500/-

Bidders are required to submit their tenders on or before **01.07.2026, 5.00 PM**, through KPPP Portal (<https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>.) For further details like any date extension, Addendum will be updated in said portal and the University website www.rcub.ac.in or contact the **Estate Office, Rani Channamma University, Belagavi.**
Sd/- Registrar
Rani Channamma University,Belagavi

KRISHNA BHAGYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL, Dam Safety Unit-2, Almatti- 586201.
E-mail:dam_division@rediffmail.com
No: KBJNL/DSU-2A/PB-1/2026-27/580 Dated:17.06.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP Portal Only)

On behalf of the Managing Director, KBJNL, Bangalore the undersigned invites tender on Percentage basis from the eligible contractors for the work indents (1) I. No. 2796–125.99 Lakhs (2) I. No. 2795—195.00 Lakhs **The contractor can have access and submit e-tender from 18.06.2026 to 06.07.2026 up to 5-00 PM. Pre-Bid Meeting is Scheduled on 24.06.2026 at 11-00 AM Executive Engineer, KBJNL, Dam Safety Unit-2 Almatti For Cover-II bidding, (Technical) Bid will be opened on 08.07.2026 Financial Bid will be Opened on Dt: 13.07.2026 at 11-00 AM** the Office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL, Dam Safety Unit-2, Almatti. For clarifications, the bidder is may contact the undersigned office during office hours. (Phone No. 08426-281027). Further information about electronic tendering can be had from kppp.karnataka.gov.in.
Sd/- Executive Engineer, KBJNL, Dam Safety Unit-2, Almatti

ವಾಸವಾಂಶ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/160/ಕೆಸ್ಎಂಎ/2026-27

ವಿಶ್ವೇಶ್ವರಯ್ಯ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ಕಾಲೇಜು ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ
ಕೆಆರ್.ಪುತ್ತೂರು ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು - 560 001

University of Visvesvaraya College of Engineering

No. UVCE/Consultant/Paper Noti./2026-27/274

Date : 16.06.2026

RECRUITMENT

University of Visvesvaraya College of Engineering is looking to engage Procurement Executives for a period of 3 months. The engagement is purely temporary. University reserves the right to cancel/modify the notification without assigning any reason.
Procurement Executive: (2 numbers)
Compensation: Rs.65,000/- month
Minimum Qualification and Experience: Master's degree from a recognised University with minimum 55%
Experience: Minimum proven experience of 3 years of procurement on GeM, KPPP portals in addition to local tenders with sound knowledge in procurement rules of Government of Karnataka. Proficiency in Tally and MS Office is mandatory.
Duration: Three Months
Interested persons may apply on the prescribed format available on the university website <https://uvce.karnataka.gov.in/> within 10 days from the date of publication of this advertisement.
Sd/- Registrar
University of Visvesvaraya College of Engineering

DIPR/CP/12218/ISA-2026-27

DIPR/CP/1229/AKAR/2026-27

Government of Karnataka Public Works Department, Special Division, Hunsur
Short Term tender Notification (Through <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>)
IFT No:08/2026-27 Date: 16-06-2026

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka the under signed has invited itemwised tender for 2-works related to Hunsur Special Division as per terms and conditions of "standard tender documents" from the eligible registered contactors under PWD through KPP Portal. Maximum amount put to tender Rs.80.51 lakhs and Minimum amount put to tender Rs.12.17 lakhs, Maximum EMD amount of Rs.1,61,100.00/-and Minimum EMD amount of Rs.15,213/- .Tender documents is downloaded from the <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> website from Dt:16-06-2026 Last date for submission of filled tender documents Dt: 23-06-2026 upto 16.00 Hours. Period for completion of works (including monsoon): 3-months. For more details visit the undersigned during office working hours
Note: 1) The employer reserves the rights to Reject or Accept any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons. 2) Tender extension/Addendum/Corrigendum etc, will be notified only in KPP Portal and will not be published in news papers.
Sd/- Executive Engineer

DIPR/DDMYS/344/KSMCA/234/2026-27

DIPR/CP/1229/AKAR/2026-27

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
1 Karnataka Naval Unit NCC
No.8, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru - 560 052.

No.JP/NCE/293/e-Tendering RDC/2026

Dated 20.11.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited for Supply of **Miscellaneous items for Karnataka & Goa Directorate Contingent participating in AINSC-2026 to be held at Lonavala, Maharashtra from 30th June 2026 to 12th July 2026**. Quotations to be forwarded to the following address by 16th June 2026. The Commanding Officer, 1 Karnataka Naval Unit NCC, KSCMF Building, No.8, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru - 560 052. Contact No. 9880349408/7012631165 and Email : 1navalunitncc.bangalore@gmail.com.
Sd/- M. Nambiar, Captain, Commanding Officer, 1 Kar NU NCC, Bangalore
DIPR/CP/1229/AKAR/2026-27

FORM G-INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR VOI JEANS RETAIL INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED OPERATING MAINLY IN THE MEN'S APPAREL AT BENGALURU
(Under Regulation 36A(1) of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Insolvency Resolution Process for Corporate Persons) Regulations, 2016)

RELEVANT PARTICULARS	
1. Name of the corporate debtor and CIN	VOI JEANS RETAIL INDIA PVT LTD (CIN: U52321KA2011PTCO05681)
2. Address of the registered office	No. 54C-722 &724, 3rd Floor HRBR Layout, 1st Block, Bengaluru – 43
3. URL of website	https://www.voijeans.online/
4. Details of place where majority of fixed assets are located	Bengaluru, Karnataka
5. The installed capacity of main products (Annual Production Capacity in Metric Ton)	NA
6. Qty. & value of main products/ services sold in last financial year	As of FY 2024-25, the turnover of the company was ₹22.97 crores
7. Number of employees/ workmen	109 employees on roll as on the date of commencement of CIRP
8. Further details including the last available financial statements, lists of creditors, and relevant dates for subsequent events of the process are available at:	Can be sought by sending a request to Interim Resolution Professional at: cirp-voiyeans@beleyur.in
9. Eligibility for resolution applicants under section 25(2)(h) of the Code is available at:	Can be sought by sending a request to IRP at: cirp-voiyeans@beleyur.in
10. Last date for receipt of expression of interest	04-07-2026
11. Date of issue of provisional list of prospective resolution applicants	11-07-2026
12. Last date for submission of objections to provisional list	16-07-2026
13. Date of issue of final list of prospective resolution applicants	22-07-2026
14. Date of issue of information memorandum, evaluation matrix and request for resolution plans to prospective applicants	23-07-2026
15. Last date for submission of resolution plans	24-08-2026
16. Process email id to submit EOI	cirp-voiyeans@beleyur.in
17. Details of the corporate debtor's registration status as MSME	Registered as small enterprise having Reg. No.UDYAM-KR-03-0187257

Sd/- (Ranjana Singh)
Interim Resolution Professional of VOI Jeans Retail India Private Limited under CIRP
Date: 17-06-2026 Place: Bengaluru
IBBI Reg. No.IBBI/IPA-002/IP-NO1181/2021-2022/13968



ARLINGTON (US), REUTERS

Harry Kane's feat of equaling Gary Lineker's England World Cup scoring record with two goals in Wednesday's 4-2 win over Croatia shows the captain is going into the tournament with all guns firing.

On a more worrying note for coach Thomas Tuchel, however, the team showed unusual defensive vulnerabilities, especially during the first half when England twice allowed Croatia to equalise.

Kane racked up 61 goals in all competitions for Bayern Munich last season including 14 in the Champions League

Harry Kane became England's joint top-scorer at the World Cup, drawing level with former player Gary Lineker at 10 goals. REUTERS

England's frailties at the back exposed despite Kane prowess

Skipper strikes a brace in Three Lions' win over battling Croatia

and he claimed his third straight Bundesliga top-scorer crown, an achievement unmatched by any player in their first three seasons in the German top flight.

The former Tottenham Hotspur forward kept that form going as England stepped out in Arlington, Texas against Croatia although he needed a retaken penalty to get his first goal – his first attempt was saved. His second was given to him on a plate by a Croatian defence that allowed him the freedom of the penalty box to head his and England's second.

Kane's impact on the game spanned the length of the pitch as he sought to create chances for his fellow forwards with passes from deep and in the 95th minute, with the game all but won, Kane was defending in England's penalty area when he blocked a goal-bound shot with his tummy.

"Harry Kane scored two goals but what I liked the most is he blocked a shot in his own area in the last few minutes," former Sweden forward Zlatan Ibrahimovic told Fox Sports.

"When you see a top player defend like he does, the sacrifice – he wants to win. He's prepared to do things a star wouldn't do normally."

While Kane's performance will dominate the headlines, there were problems with England's performance that Tuchel will seek to eradicate before the Group L games against Ghana and Panama.

Croatia's first equaliser by Martin Baturina had its roots in a moment of hesitation by England in midfield and the English defence was unpicked with ease for Croatia's second leveller just before halftime through Petar Musa.

The concern on the England bench was laid bare at the break



England's Harry Kane (No. 9) scores their second goal against Croatia during their Group L match at the Dallas Stadium. REUTERS

when England assistant coach Anthony Barry spoke to broadcaster ITV about a "complicated and confusing first half", England's "nervous energy" and "fearful patterns".

Tuchel raised eyebrows before kickoff when he selected John Stones to start in the centre of defence despite an injury-interrupted season with Manchester City, leaving Marc Guehi on the bench.

Captain Kane making most of another opportunity

ARLINGTON (TEXAS), AP

Harry Kane has already made the most of another opportunity in this World Cup. Given a second penalty kick, he didn't miss.

The hope now for England and its captain is this is just the start of a

long run and another chance to seek a championship after bitter losses ended their last two appearances.

That successful retry on a penalty kick was the first of Kane's first two goals as England won its World Cup opener 4-2 Wednesday over Croatia, who knocked the Three Lions out in the 2018 semifinals.

On Friday
Mexico vs South Africa (6.30 am)
On Saturday
USA vs Australia (12.30 am)
Scotland vs Morocco (3.30 am)
Brazil vs Haiti (6.00 am)
All timings in IST

Wahi granted Canada visa after delay

ABIDJAN, AFP: Ivory Coast forward Elye Wahi has been authorised to enter Canada for his country's second World Cup match against Germany, after initially being denied a visa over reported spot-fixing allegations, a source close to the player said on Thursday.

The Ivorian football federation (FIF) had earlier announced Wahi would miss Saturday's game in Toronto. The FIF gave no reason for his initial visa refusal.

But later on Thursday a source told AFP that Canada had delayed Wahi's visa authorisation after requesting further information regarding his legal situation, before rubber-stamping his entry.

Several media reported that Wahi had been questioned by French prosecutors over suspicions of spot-fixing in a Ligue 1 match while he was playing for Nice.

The case revolves around a yellow card which Wahi picked up in a 0-0 draw with Metz on the final day of the season in mid-May, after betting authorities had noticed an unusual volume of bets being placed on the 23-year-old receiving a yellow card.

The French football league had lodged a complaint to police for "facts which could constitute sporting fraud and organised corruption".



Elye Wahi

Ghana sink Panama in battle of attrition

TORONTO, AFP

Ghana scored a dramatic 1-0 victory over Panama in their opening World Cup Group L clash in Toronto on Wednesday.

Caleb Yirenkyi bundled in the winning goal in the fifth minute of stoppage time, sending thousands of Ghanaians in Canada's largest city into a frenzy and settling an otherwise attritional battle.

Both sides largely struggled to generate chances in the first half after Panama striker Cecilio Waterma's second minute attempt was steered away by outstretched Ghana goalkeeper Lawrence Ati Zigi.

The Black Stars didn't attempt a shot on goal through the first half.

The second half played out under steady rain at the Toronto Stadium but saw more sustained attacking play.

Cristian Martinez triggered a massive roar from the loud Panamanian contingent when he lashed a shot into the side-netting in the 60th minute. But the match looked headed for a scoreless draw until Yirenkyi put the Black Stars ahead.

Ghana's veteran coach Carlos Queiroz turned to his side's fans after the goal, urging them on in celebration.

Queiroz only took charge of the Black Stars a couple of months before the start of the tournament.

Wednesday's fixture made him only the second coach to appear

triumphed despite being without Villarreal midfielder Thomas Partey, who is facing trial on rape charges in Britain. Canadian authorities denied him a World Cup visa, over the British case.



Ghana's Caleb Yirenkyi celebrates after scoring. Ghana. REUTERS

Ghana	Panama
1	0

in five consecutive World Cups, after leading Portugal in 2010 and Iran in 2014, 2018 and 2022.

Loud boos rang out across the crowd of nearly 43,000 during a second-half hydration break under pouring rain.

Ghana

Morocco firm favourites against Scots

BOSTON, REUTERS: Scotland have hit the ground running in the World Cup with an opening 1-0 victory over Haiti in Group C and with their Tartan Army of fans winning hearts in Boston, but their return to the city on Friday to face Morocco could dampen their spirits.

The North Africans, surprise World Cup semifinalists four years ago, held five-times world champions Brazil to a 1-1 draw in their opener and may flip the script in the group.

A win over Scotland

would almost certainly see them through to the next round on four points and, given their fluid play and confidence against Brazil compared to Scotland's lacklustre display, they will deservedly go into the match as favourites.

Four years ago, Morocco, who will co-host the 2030 World Cup with Portugal and Spain, beat Belgium, Spain and Portugal on their unexpected run to the last four.

This time around they look to be an even more efficient unit, with coach Mohamed

Ouahbi, who only took the helm three months ago and led Morocco to Under-20 World Cup success last year, having infused the team with a string of young players.

One of them has already stood out at the World Cup. Midfielder Ayyoub Bouaddi, aged 18, looked completely at ease against Brazil in his first competitive international after his recent switch to represent them instead of France.

Bouaddi, a former France youth international, carried an imperious air as he moved

across the pitch, constantly looking for work in an eye-catching performance that will have had Scotland coach Steve Clarke sit up and take notice.

The Scots won their first World Cup match in 36 years when they beat Haiti but for much of the scrappy encounter the pressure to break that jinx was palpable.

The three points put them top of the group and considerably eased the strain on Clarke's players.

"I think they're (players) more relaxed," said Scotland

assistant coach Steven Nasmith. "We have ticked a few boxes and now have a win at a World Cup group stage. We have points.

"I just think the longer you're in the tournament, the familiarity increases and everything settles. So, yes, I would expect everybody to be a bit more relaxed on Friday."

They will, however, not be without pressure as they need to earn at least a point against the North Africans if they are to avoid a do-or-die game against Brazil on the final matchday.



MEXICO CITY, REUTERS

It was 12 years ago that Colombia forward James Rodriguez announced himself at the World Cup in Brazil - and though he led his side out for their 2026 opener on Wednesday, it was teammate Luis Diaz who showed he could be the main man this year.

Diaz was the architect of his side's 3-1 Group K win over tournament debutants Uzbekistan at a raucous Azteca Stadium that was filled to the brim with loud and proud Colombia supporters.

Although 29 years old,

it is the first World Cup for Diaz as he made a late breakthrough in his career, at Portuguese side Porto, and Colombia did not qualify for the 2022 tournament in Qatar.

He certainly showed he would make the most of his opportunity over the next few weeks as, not long after hitting the post, he sent a sumptuous ball over the top for teammate Daniel Munoz to hook into the net on the turn.

Although Uzbekistan equalised on the hour mark, Diaz burst forward five minutes later to slot the ball in, his first World Cup goal restoring his side's lead.

The loudest cheers before kickoff were when talisman Rodriguez was shown on the big screen, but that was beaten by the deafening roar that greeted Diaz's substitution in the third minute of stoppage time.

It's a continuation of a remarkable run of form for the Bayern Munich winger, who scored 26 goals in all competitions in his first season in Germany, winning the Bundesliga title and a German Cup.

That came after helping Liverpool win the Premier League title in 2024-25 with 13 goals. The fact the English side's title defence collapsed

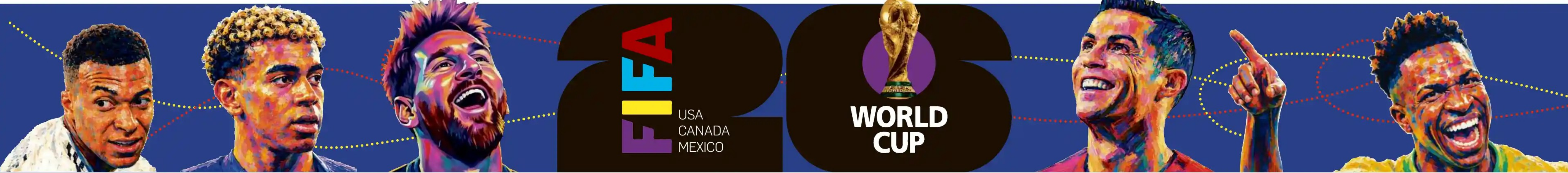
so soon perhaps highlights the gap Diaz left, with his high pressing and urgency as key as his trickery and clinical finishing.

"It was a very special moment; I felt an incredible sensation when I went out to warm up," Diaz told reporters on Wednesday. "I worked and fought for this. I am living out my childhood dream of playing in a World Cup with my national team, and it's even better to have contributed a goal and an assist."

Diaz is already a well-known quantity but Colombia fans will be hoping their beloved 'Lucho' can inspire them to go even further this year.



Morocco's Achraf Hakimi (left) and Scotland's Andrew Robertson. AFP



TEAMS : 48 VENUES : 16 TOURNAMENT SPAN : 39 DAYS



Mexican military neutralises drone near Korean camp

Mexican military forces intercepted and brought down a drone that flew near the South Korean national soccer team's training camp ahead of its World Cup match against Mexico, reports AP from Guadalajara.

Military forces used specialised equipment to detect an "unregistered drone" near the South Korean camp, prompting them to "neutralise" it, the Mexican federal agent said.

The official spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to discuss the incident publicly.

No split loyalties for Robinson

Antonee "Jedi" Robinson, the USA's Liverpool-raised left-back with a strong British accent, is laser-focused on helping his national team go deep into the World Cup they are co-hosting, and will have no soft spot for his country of birth when they kick off against Croatia on Wednesday, reports AFP from Irvine.

Since his debut in 2018, Robinson has become a lynchpin of the US team, solid defensively in their opening win over Paraguay but capable of spectacular strikes like his rocket against Germany in a recent friendly.

Qatar fans' govt-funded WC trip

Qatar brought a cheering section to the World Cup by treating a large contingent of supporters to an all-expenses-paid trip to North America, reports AP from Vancouver, British Columbia.

Some 1,000 Qatari fans have descended on Vancouver, via jets chartered by the Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, ahead of Thursday's match against Canada.

The fans are staying at posh hotels.

They've been turning heads downtown, breaking out traditional darbuka drums.



Scottish thirst for beer pushes bars to the limit

Bars in Boston are gearing up for a second tidal wave of drinking by Scotland's Tartan Army of football fans who nearly drained some pubs of all their beer in the first weekend of their World Cup occupation of the city, reports Reuters from Boston.

When Scotland beat Haiti 1-0 on Saturday in their first World Cup appearance since 1998, bar staff had to scramble for emergency supplies to satisfy the country's famously raucous and thirsty fans who have packed into Boston by the tens of thousands.

"I've been in this business for over 30 years, and I've never seen anything like this," said a bar owner.



Thinking of signing Messi, jokes Lula

President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva suggested Wednesday that Brazil should hire Argentina's Lionel Messi, when asked about his country's performance in the World Cup so far, reports AFP from Rio de Janeiro.

"I was thinking about signing Messi to play for Brazil," Lula said, laughing, when journalists asked him about his country's showing.

However, he noted it wasn't a "big deal" for Brazil to draw with Morocco, which was their strongest opponent in the group. "They say that whenever Brazil is heavily doubted, they win the WC, let's see."



Vozinha's mother gets visa for USA

The mother of Cape Verde star goalkeeper Vozinha has been granted a visa to enter the United States in time for her 40-year-old son's next World Cup match, House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries announced Wednesday, reports AP from Washington.

Vozinha became an early sensation of the World Cup after making key saves in a 0-0 draw with Spain. After the match, Vozinha said his mother had not been able to secure a visa to enter the US to see him play.

Jeffries said he requested US Secretary of State Marco Rubio for the same.



Cristiano Ronaldo had an underwhelming outing in Portugal's 1-1 draw against DR Congo. AFP

Ronaldo (no) show: Is he past his prime?

Star striker fails to score in Portugal's draw with Congo

HOUSTON, REUTERS

Portugal forward Cristiano Ronaldo's two second-half misses against the Democratic Republic of Congo and a mostly anonymous display did little to dissuade those who feel he is past his prime and not the man to lead his country to World Cup success.

Portugal were held to a 1-1 draw in Group K by a Congolese side appearing at their first global finals in 52 years.

Ronaldo, 41, is at his sixth World Cup, a record he jointly holds with Argentina's Lionel Messi, and had two chances to win the game, both of which he put wide from close range.

The frustration from his captain Bruno Fernandes, who had lined up behind Ronaldo in

the first of the opportunities, was evident and prolonged.

Ronaldo had the fewest touches (25) of any Portugal player who featured for more than 45 minutes. Portugal coach Roberto Martinez was not in the mood to speak specifically about Ronaldo's performance in the post-match press conference, suggesting the forward was not given the support he needed.

"We have to utilise all the players on the pitch. The lead attacker (Ronaldo) needs to be close to the six-yard box and we need to get the ball (to him)."

Asked if he thought about substituting Ronaldo, Martinez said the forward's experience was key.



"It makes no sense to get the best goalscorer in world football out in a game that you need goals," he said.

"For us in moments like this, the experience of Cristiano in the box is important. The way that he attracts defenders is important, the way that we can use the space is important."

"And every player has a responsibility or a piece of quality on the pitch. And clearly when you look for goals, you need to have Cristiano."

Bruised Brazil hope to turn tables against Haiti

MORRISTOWN (NEW JERSEY), REUTERS

Brazil face Haiti on Friday needing a World Cup reset rather than another misty-eyed reminder of their glittering past, after a disappointing Group C draw with Morocco left Carlo Ancelotti's side with bruises, questions and little room for another flop.

The five-times champions were rescued in their opener by a flash of brilliance from Vinicius Jr, who dragged Brazil level after Ismael Saibari gave Morocco an early lead in a first half that left

them pinned back and short of ideas.

Morocco, Africa Cup of Nations champions and one of the major surprise packages of the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, looked sharper, braver and more coherent for long spells, leaving Brazil relieved to escape with a point.

Now comes Haiti in Philadelphia, a match Brazil will be expected to win but one that arrives with thorns attached.

Haiti, among the tournament's major underdogs, began with a 1-0 defeat by Scotland, but five-tiem champions' most awkward

opponent may be their own uncertainty.

Ancelotti was criticised for starting striker Igor Thiago and right back Roger Ibanez against Morocco, while midfielders Casemiro and Lucas Paqueta struggled badly before halftime.

The introduction of Danilo, Fabinho and Matheus Cunha after the break brought more balance and energy, handing the Italian coach a familiar tournament puzzle.

Does he back the players who started the opener, preserving cohesion and calm, or respond with changes in search of spark?

Meanwhile, Neymar will not travel with the Brazil squad for Friday's game as he continues his recovery from a calf injury, reports AFP.

The 34-year-old attack midfielder has only returned to training with the national team this week and missed the five-time World Cup winners' opening 1-1 draw with Morocco in Group C.

Ancelotti said last week he was hopeful Neymar would be ready to play some part in the game against Haiti.

Neymar was diagnosed in late May with an injury to his right calf, and has limited appearance in club season.



Brazil's attacking midfielder Neymar (right) failed to recover in time for the next match against Haiti on Saturday. AFP



After impressing as a substitute, 17-year-old Gilberto Mora could find a place in Mexico's starting line-up when they take on South Korea. AFP

Mexico, Korea to tussle for group's lead

MEXICO CITY, REUTERS

Mexico and South Korea will put their perfect starts on the line when they meet on Thursday in Guadalajara, with the winners taking a major step toward securing top spot in World Cup Group A.

Co-hosts Mexico opened the tournament with a 2-0 win over South Africa but coach Javier Aguirre faces key selection decisions after defender Cesar Montes was sent off in a chaotic second half that produced three red cards.

Montes will miss the clash through suspension, forcing a reshuffle at the back, with captain Edson Alvarez among the options to fill the vacancy in central defence while Israel Reyes could also be moved inside from right back.

Aguirre could also hand a starting role to Gilberto Mora after the teenager impressed off the bench in the opener. At 17, Mora is the youngest player at the tournament and energised

Mexico's attack during his World Cup debut, increasing calls for a place in the starting lineup.

South Korea also began with a victory, overcoming the Czech Republic 2-1 thanks to a late winner from striker Oh Hyeon-gyu.

Coach Hong Myung-bo's options have expanded since that match, with midfielders Bae Jun-ho and Kim Tae-hyeon nearing returns from injuries that disrupted their preparations. Hong must also decide how best to use captain Son Heung-min, whose influence has waned since his move to Major League Soccer side LAFC last year.

Son started the opening win but could be deployed in a deeper supporting role if Hong opts to reward match-winner Oh with a place in the starting attack.

While both teams remain well placed to reach the knockout stage, finishing first in the group would likely offer a more favourable route in knockouts.

US bet on Pulisic to come good against Aussies

IRVINE (CALIFORNIA), REUTERS: United States players said they hope Christian Pulisic will be available for their Group D World Cup clash against Australia on Friday after the forward was substituted at halftime in their opener with a left calf injury.

Team officials told reporters at US base camp on Wednesday that Pulisic was still being evaluated daily and remains in a "modified training program," doing individual work both in the gym and on the field.

"We're really hoping Christian is going to be back for the game of course," Brenden Aaronson, who could potentially start in Pulisic's place, told reporters. "I don't really know what is going on in particular, but we know that he is going to give us his all to get back into the team and be there for the game."



USA's Christian Pulisic was substituted with injury against Uruguay. AFP

Pulisic was sensational in the first half in the co-hosts' 4-1 thrashing of Paraguay at Los Angeles Stadium on Friday, beating two defenders to force an own goal and setting up Folarin Balogun to score before being subbed off at the break.

Mokoena keeps Bafana Bafana alive

ATLANTA, AFP: Teboho Mokoena's penalty kept South Africa's dream of reaching the World Cup knockout stages for the first time alive after a 1-1 draw with the Czech Republic in Atlanta on Thursday.

Michal Sadilek's early opener had the Czechs on course for just their second World Cup win as an independent nation.

But Mokoena's late spot-kick

kept both teams in the hunt for the last 32, although they will almost certainly have to win their final Group A fixture to advance.

Both sides move onto one point, two behind Mexico and South Korea.

Bafana Bafana next face South Korea, while the



Czech Republic take on the daunting task of playing Mexico in the Estadio Azteca.

Both sides started with disappointing performances and defeats on the World Cup's opening day, but the Czechs quickly set about making amends.

Patrik Schick is the biggest name in a Czech side lacking

the star quality of previous generations but the Bayer Leverkusen forward missed a glorious chance inside the first minute when he planted a header wide.

Miroslav Koubek's men only had to wait another five minutes to take the lead. Adam Hlozek's cross was classily cushioned by Alexandr Sojka into the path of Sadilek, who calmly stroked the ball past Ronwen Williams.



South Africa's Teboho Mokoena (right) scored a penalty to earn their side first point against Czechia in a Group A of the World Cup at Atlanta Stadium. AFP

Abhay-Velavan
make winning
start

NEW DELHI, PTI: India's top men's pair of Abhay Singh and Velavan Senthilkumar started title defence on a positive note, defeating South Korean pair of Oh Seojin and MinWoo Lee in straight sets at the third Asian Doubles Squash Championships in Sarawak, Malaysia on Thursday.

The top-seeded Indian duo eased past the Seojin and Lee 11-7, 11-10 in Pool A, with a combination of touch and control.

In mixed doubles, second seeded Velavan and Joshna Chinappa thumped Cordelia Hsu and Pan Hong Rui of Chinese Taipei 11-2, 11-3 in Pool B as the pair looks to better last year's bronze medal finish.

In the women's doubles, second seed Joshna and Rathika Seelan won all three outings on the opening day in six-team Pool B, defeating Singapore's Jayna Lim and Jacintha Han 11-5, 11-5, Japanese pair of Sugimoto Risa and Erisa Sano 11-9, 11-8, and compatriots Janet Vidhi and Pooja Arthi 11-5, 11-8.

IN BRIEF

Iniyar closes
in on title

► GM Iniyar Pa leads the rest of the field by one point and a draw will be enough to clinch a title win in the master's section of the Global Chess Festival, even as he was held for a draw by IM Harsh Suresh on Thursday, reports PTI from Mumbai.

◆ ON TV ◆

- CRICKET**
Women's T20 WC: New Zealand vs Ireland (11 pm). **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar**.
- Tri-Nation Series:** Sri Lanka A vs Afghanistan A (10 am). **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network**.
- 2nd Test:** New Zealand vs England (Day 3, 3:30 pm). **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Ten 2, SonyLIV**.
- 3rd T20I:** Australia vs Bangladesh (1:30 pm). **LIVE** on **FanCode**.
- FOOTBALL**
World Cup: USA vs Australia (12:30 am, Saturday). Scotland vs Morocco (3:30 am, Saturday). Brazil vs Haiti (6 am, Saturday). **LIVE** on **Unite8 Sports, Zee5**.
- GOLF**
US Open: Day 2 (9:30 pm). **LIVE** on **FanCode**.
- TENNIS**
The Queen's: Quarterfinal (2:30 pm). **LIVE** on **FanCode**.

The Punjab pacer
has given a good
account of himself
against Afghanistan

SIDNEY KIRAN
LUCKNOW, DHNS

Squad selection at the very elite level in Indian cricket is by and large a hassle-free exercise. There will be some deliberation for a spot or two, but given the abundance of talent in the country, the headache is generally of the happy kind. The data overload nowadays also serves it on a platter for the wisemen; the majority members of the team picks themselves.

However, there have been occasions when the selectors have looked beyond the numbers and gambled on bleeding unheralded cricketers. Either they've seen something special in that player during their visits to domestic matches, or they've gotten some special feedback from local coaches, or it could just be pure gut instinct.

The most recent example of being chosen purely on intuition is fast bowler Gurnoor Brar. The 26-year-old from Punjab, who started to play the sport with some serious-



Gurnoor Brar lived up to the promise, bagging two three-wicket hauls in the first two ODIs against Afghanistan. PTI

ness only from his late teens, has 52 wickets in 18 first-class matches, 18 from 11 List A games, and 10 from 9 T20s. These aren't eye-popping statistics that warrant a fast-track to international cricket, but the selection committee, headed by former India fast bowler Ajit Agarkar and who has ex-team-mate and fellow pacer RP Singh for company, saw something special in the 6'5" Brar.

The giant has been building

up a reputation of having the ability to consistently clock over 140 kmph. He can also hit the deck hard regularly owing to his height and get the ball to bounce high from good length areas, and also has developed a potent yorker. But hardly any of them is in black and white, with the youngster even struggling to earn a spot in Gujarat Titans' playing XI after being purchased for Rs 1.3 crore at the 2025 auction. He has played just one game

in the IPL — often the benchmark for limited-overs nowadays — that too way back in 2023 for former team Punjab Kings.

But, in their vision to build a sizeable squad for the 2027 World Cup in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia, the selection committee took a punt on Brar for the Afghanistan series. They believed the youngster could be moulded into a potent pacer for the African mega bash, and the games

against Afghanistan may serve as the right launchpad.

Opportunities from the wild to don an Indian cap don't come too often, and Brar, son of an ASI in the Punjab Police, has grabbed it with both hands. In his debut ODI in Dharamsala, a rain-hit affair reduced to 25 overs a side, Brar bagged 3/27 to earn instant plaudits before shining with a 3/60 in the second game in Lucknow, where the searing conditions were unforgiving for cricket. In both games, he showed the qualities that he's been spoken about — bowled fast, hit the deck hard, made life uncomfortable for Afghan batters at times with steep bounce, and delivered those sizzling yorkers.

Brar has made an instant impression, but one mustn't forget the opposition, with no disrespect, was Afghanistan. Plus, the Dharamsala game was pretty much a T20 game, while in Lucknow, he had the luxury of defending 403 runs with the opposition having already wilted following three hours of leather hunt in brutal weather. Tougher challenges, if selected, will beckon in the near future, where he will be put under pressure by superior batters. How he responds to that will have bearing on his international future. For now, the risk taken by the selection committee has paid off.

India storm into title clash

BENGALURU, DHNS: Dominant India outclassed defending champions Hong Kong China 3-1 to storm into the final of the World Team Snooker Championship at Guangdong in China on Thursday.

In the title clash on Saturday, India will take on the winners of the other semifinal between China A and Korea. Despite a few hiccupps in the doubles match, both Pankaj Advani and Aditya Mehta were largely on top of their game. In fact, the Indians could have won in straight frames but frittered away the advantage.

Advani, who was first up, was in excellent form after the early safety skirmishes. Latching onto a missed red by Cheung Ka Wai, the Indian ace constructed a gritty break of 48. He was forced to play around the blue, as the pink was on the yellow spot and the black was blocked by a few reds.

Advani resorted to safety after losing position, snookering his rival behind the pink



Aditya Mehta

in the 'D'. After three failed attempts, Ka Wai hit the object ball, but the first rubber was already decided.

Capitalising on Wang Yuchen's poor safety, Mehta rifled in a frame-clinching break of 67. With just three reds on the table and needing two snookers to stay in the match, the Hong Kong cueist conceded after missing a pink to the centre pocket. **Results: Semifinals:** India bt Hong Kong China 3-1 (Pankaj Advani bt Cheung Ka Wai 74-1; Aditya Mehta bt Wang Yuchen 67 (67) -9; Advani/Mehta lost to Yuchen/ Wan Nansen Sin Man 59-68; Advani bt Yuchen 88 (74) -0).

Ashmita, Anmol
enter quarters;
the rest exit

MACAU, PTI: Anmol Kharb and Ashmita Chaliha advanced to the women's singles quarterfinals while the country's challenge ended in other sections at the Macau Open Super 300 badminton tournament here on Thursday.

World No. 63 Ashmita continued her impressive run on the BWF World Tour, defeating USA's Ishika Jaiswal 22-20, 21-15 in 32 minutes to book her place in the last eight stage.

The unseeded Indian will next face South Korea's Kim Min Sun.

World No. 51 Anmol, who is seeded eighth, had a far easier passage as her formidable rival Goh Jin Wei of Malaysia retired while trailing 4-12 in the opening game after just eight minutes of action.

The Indian will now take on fourth-seeded Han Qian Xi of China in a tricky quarterfinal.

Manika seeks SM's
intervention

NEW DELHI, PTI

India's most recognisable table tennis star, Manika Batra, was on Thursday dropped from the national squad for this year's Asian Games as she did not meet the selection criteria set by the TTFL.

Manika released a media statement, urging the Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya and Indian Olympic Association to ensure a transparent selection procedure.

"I am seeking full clarity and accountability so that there is no ambiguity in how selection decisions are made at the highest level," read her statement.

Manika's exclusion is down to her absence from domestic events because of which she does not feature in the Table Tennis Federation of India's (TTFI) rankings.

The Asian Games will be held in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan from September 19 to October



Manika Batra

4. She is part of the reserves alongside Swastika Ghosh.

Manika is currently India's second-highest-ranked female player at 51, behind Sreeja Akula who is 45th in the latest ITTF (International Table Tennis Federation) rankings.

TTFI selects players based on international and national rankings.

"The selection process ensured that India's highest-ranked and most consistent performers earned the opportunity to represent the country at Asia's biggest multi-sport event," said TTFI.



Laksh, Ananyasree
march into quarters

BENGALURU, DHNS

Laksh Chengappa MA and Ananyasree Murali registered contrasting victories to march into the quarterfinals of the men's and women's singles categories respectively at the Yonex Sunrise Karnataka State U-19 & Senior Ranking Badminton tournament.

Being played at the PET Badminton Indoor Stadium in Mandya, Laksh dished out a clinical display to beat fourth seed Aditya Diwakar 21-13, 21-17 while Ananyasree held her nerve to defeat seventh seed Ayushi Bhat 24-22, 12-21, 21-16.

In the boys' singles event, top seed Harshad Shadish broke no sweat to progress into the next stage with a 21-11, 21-14 win over Toshan Naik.

Results: Men's Singles: (All pre-quarterfinals, prefix denotes seeding): Tilak B Shetty bt Pranav B 22-20, 21-10; 6-Abhishek K K bt Shyam Bindiganavile 21-15, 21-18; Laksh Chengappa Ma bt 4-Aditya Diwakar 21-13, 21-17; Hemantha Manjunath Gowda bt 7-Goutham M 21-13, 21-10; Kaushik Reddy Veeram Reddy bt Nischal S 16-21, 24-22, 21-18; Harshad Shadish bt 16-Saharsh S Prabhu 21-13, 21-15; Lal Sai Samit C Bandu bt 12-Sumukh G S 21-19, 21-18; 14-Rudra Shahi bt 14-Pradyot Ravi 21-15, 21-17

Women's Singles: 1-Lakshya Rajesh bt Kalandika Arunkumar 21-10, 21-11; Siyona Kolla bt Deepthika Salibilla 20-22, 21-14, 21-11; 4-Sameeksha Hn bt Akhila Anand 21-15, 17-21, 21-16; Ananyasree Murali bt 7-Ayushi Bhat 24-22, 12-21, 21-16; Disha Santosh bt 10-Gowri Bhat 21-19, 17-21, 21-18; Muskaan Khan bt 13-Rachana M 21-9, 21-12; Anvitha Vijay bt 12-Tanya Bijoy 21-14 18-21 21-15; Selvasamruddhi Selvaprabhu bt Aashi Das 17-21, 21-17, 21-18.

Boys: U-19: Singles: 1-Harshad Shadish bt Toshan Naik 21-11, 21-14; 8-Pradyot Ravi bt Evan Dexter Fernandes 21-9, 21-13; 4-Nischal S bt Indraj Vinod 21-19, 21-14; 7-Mayukh Db bt Rehan Aariz 21-8, 21-16; 13-Peeyush Tripathy bt Shyam Bindiganavile 10-21, 24-22, 21-17; 12-Hardhik Mohanty bt Thaman Sreedhar 21-19, 21-17; Kaushik Reddy Veeram Reddy bt Anirudh Reddy Challapalli 21-10, 21-11; Hardik Divyansh bt Dylan P Thokhom 21-13, 21-15.

Zara steps ahead into sole lead,
Lavanya two shots behind

BENGALURU, DHNS: Overnight co-leader Zara Anand scored a two-under 66 to surge into a two-shot sole lead in the Hero Women's Pro Golf Tour Leg-7 at the Bangalore Golf Club here on Thursday.

Amateur Zara made three birdies on the front nine before shooting a bogey on the par-4 12th hole. The Noida teen took her two-day total to six-under 130 on the par-68 course.

Dropping out but staying close behind was the other overnight leader Lavanya Jadon who ended day two

at sole second spot. The Jaipur-born pro failed to replicate her opening round heroics of four-under 64 as Lavanya managed an even par round that had three birdies and as many bogeys.

Delhi's Smriti Bhargav and Bengaluru's Durga Nittur are further behind by three shots (133) from the leader and occupy the tied-third position after carding even par rounds of 68. **Standings (after 36 holes): 130:** Zara Anand (64, 66); **132:** Lavanya Jadon (64, 68); **133:** Smriti Bhargav (65, 68), Durga Nittur (65, 68).

Double delight
for Tanishka

BENGALURU, DHNS

Tanishka Kalabhairav put on a dominant show as the paddler clinched both the women's singles and the U-19 girls' singles titles on the opening day of the LIC Cup Karnataka State-ranking Table Tennis tournament in Mysuru on Thursday.

In both the singles final, Tanishka beat Himanshi Chowdhary.

BR Gaurav won the U-19 boys' final by defeating Shubham Trivedi.

Results (all finals): Women's singles: Tanishka K bt Himanshi Chowdhary 11-5, 9-11, 12-10, 11-8, 11-7.



Tanishka Kalabhairav (left) and BR Gaurav with their spoils.

LOCAL TABLE TENNIS

Girls' singles: Tanishka Kalabhairav bt Himanshi Chowdhary 11-8, 11-5, 6-11, 11-9, 13-11.
U-19: Boys' singles: BR Gaurav bt Shubham Trivedi 11-9, 6-11, 11-2, 11-7, 11-9

Rishanth, Chetan net trebles

BENGALURU, DHNS: Rishanth (5th, 41st and 57th minute) and Chetan S (10th, 19th and 27th) scored a hat-trick each in Bangalore Mars' 7-2 victory over Bangalore Boys in the BDFA C Division Championship here on Thursday.

Results: Group 10: Bangalore Mars FC: 7 (Rishanth- 5th, 41st, 57th; Chetan S 10th, 19th, 27th; Melwin Raj 50th) bt Bangalore Boys FC: 2 (Pau Za Sing 11th, 58th); Tilak Memorial FC: 1 (Kiran M 54th) drawn with Jupiter FC: 1 (Prateek Baliga B 31st).

Group 11: IISC FC: 5 (KB Sandeep Shai 6th P Lalrem Puia Hmar 14th, 43rd, Wangshitem Jen Ozukum 37th, Robin Francies 50th) bt Bangalore Youngsters FC: 1 (Mohammed Sajil 16th); BHEL (EDN) FC: 3 bt CZFC: 0 via walkover.

Group 12: Jolly Bros FC: 2 (Abdul Ahed Hameed 10th, Harshith M 46th) bt Bagalkunte FC: 0; Sarvagha Nagar FC: 1 (Chandru K 35th) bt Sunesa FC: 0.
Group 9: New Lucky Star FC: 4 (Sateesh Somasundaram 13th, 23rd, Nijin Thamppan 22nd, Bangei C 49th) bt La Masia FC: 0.

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